People, Parks, and Play

New Westminster

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan for New Westminster

March 2026



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.

Acknowledgements

People, Parks, and Play is a reflection of the vibrant, diverse community it serves. The City of New Westminster extends appreciation to the hundreds of residents and participants, and dozens of community-based organizations who participated across two dedicated rounds of engagement. Whether you joined a soup and bannock session, a neighbourhood pop-up, shared your expertise in a focused workshop representing local sport and community organizations, or provided feedback through virtual sessions, your passion for the City's parks and recreation system was the driving force behind this Plan. Thank you for sharing your time and your vision for a more connected and active community.

The Project Team also thanks:

New Westminster Mayor and City Council

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Happy Cities

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A sincere thank you to the City of New Westminster Public Engagement Team for their work on a comprehensive community engagement process, and to the representatives from Parks & Recreation, Community Services, Engineering and Public Works, Finance, Energy & Climate Action, Emergency Services, Library Services and the Office of the CAO for their contributions to the Interdepartmental Staff Working Group and the Project Steering Committee.

Contents

Page

Summary i

Introduction 1

A.0 Introduction 2
A.1 Need for People, Parks, and Play 2
A.2 Planning Process 5
A.3 Phase 1 Community Engagement Process 6
A.4 Analysis Methods 7
A.5 Phase 2 Community Engagement Process 9

B.0 Context 10
B.1 The City 10
B.2 Demographics 13
B.3 Regional Context 18

C.0 Planning and Policy Framework 23
C.1 Plan Framework 31
C.2 Focus Areas and Lenses 32
C.3 Goals, Objectives, and Actions 32
C.4 Plan Format 32

Page

Focus Areas

Focus Area 1
1.0 Reconciliation 35
1.1 Context 36
1.2 Goal 38
1.3 Objectives and Actions 38

Focus Area 2
2.0 Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility 41
2.1 Context 42
2.2 Goal 45
2.3 Objectives and Actions 45

Focus Area 3
3.0 Low Carbon Resilience 47
3.1 Context 48
3.2 Goal 49
3.3 Objectives and Actions 49

Page

Focus Areas Continued

Focus Area 4

4.0 Parks and Open Spaces 51

4.1 Context 52
4.2 Analysis 58
4.3 Goal 79
4.4 Objectives and Actions 79

Focus Area 5

5.0 Connectivity 81

5.1 Context 82
5.2 Goal 86
5.3 Objectives and Actions 86

Focus Area 6

6.0 Park Amenities and Facilities 89

6.1 Context 90
6.2 Goal 104
6.3 Objectives and Actions 104

Page

Focus Area 7

7.0 Indoor Recreation Facilities 107

7.1 Context 108
7.2 Goal 117
7.3 Objectives and Actions 117

Focus Area 8

8.0 Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability 119

8.1 Context 120
8.2 Programs and Services 124
8.3 Financial Sustainability 126
8.4 Goal 128
8.5 Objectives and Actions 128

Focus Area 9

9.0 Collaboration and Partnerships 133

9.1 Context 134
9.2 Goal 135
9.3 Objectives and Actions 135

Page

10.0 Implementation

10.1	Context	139
10.2	Funding and Financing	140
10.3	Action Plan	141
10.4	Planning for Future Growth	145

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Community Engagement	147
Appendix 2 Parkland Classification Table	151
Appendix 3 10-Year Implementation Plan	156



Table of Figures

		Page
Figure 1:	Phase 1 Community Engagement	6
Figure 2:	Phase 2 Community Engagement	9
Figure 3:	Population Projections	13
Figure 4:	Existing and Projected Population for Four City Districts	13
Figure 5:	Percentage of population per age group, 2021	14
Figure 6:	Mother Tongues in New Westminster	16
Figure 7:	Intersection of Parks and Recreation with Every Department in the City	23
Figure 8:	Five Areas of Focus, 2023–2026 Council Strategic Priorities Plan	29
Figure 9:	Plan Framework	31
Figure 4.1:	Parkland Classification and Characteristics Overview	53
Figure 4.2:	Parks and Open Space Supply	57
Figure 4.3:	Required Park Sites and Land Area	62
Figure 4.4:	Population-based Active Parkland by Distribution: By District	64
Figure 4.5:	Population-based All Parkland by Distribution: By District	64
Figure 4.6:	Percentage of Total City Land Area in Parkland Inventory	67
Figure 4.7:	Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces	72
Figure 4.8:	Parks with Extraordinary Establishment Mechanisms	76
Figure 7.1:	Needs and Targets for Community Centres in New Westminster	110
Figure 8.1:	Service Level Table	121
Figure 10:	Action Count by Focus Area	142
Figure 11:	Legend for Actions Table	142
Figure 12:	Performance Indicators	143
Figure 13:	Future Population Estimates by District	145
Figure 14:	Future Growth List	146

Table of Maps

		Page
Map 1:	Context Map	11
Map 4.1:	Parks and Open Spaces	55
Map 4.3:	Proximity to Active Parks Only	59
Map 4.4:	Proximity to All Parks and Open Spaces	60
Map 4.2:	Proximity to Active Parks – Gaps	63
Map 4.5:	Neighbourhoods by District	64
Map 4.6:	Parkland Supply by District	66
Map 4.7:	Future Growth Areas	69
Map 4.8:	Equity Needs	71
Map 4.9:	Park Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces	73
Map 4.10:	Parks and Open Space OCP Land Use Designation	74
Map 4.11:	Parkland Protections	75
Map 4.12:	Composite Facility Need: Proximity, Growth, and Equity	77
Map 5.1:	Connectivity	85
Map 6.1:	Proximity to Playgrounds	91
Map 6.2:	Park Amenities – Sports Fields and Track	94
Map 7.1:	Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity	109
Map 7.2:	Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity - Within 1,320m	111

Summary

As New Westminster's population becomes more diverse and the neighbourhoods denser, parks and public spaces are more essential than ever. **People, Parks, and Play** (the Plan) charts a new course for the future of parks and recreation in the city. Building on the successes of the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, this updated Plan recognizes that with increasing density and limited space, bold solutions are needed to keep residents active outdoors, connected to nature, and engaged in community life.

People, Parks, and Play is the result of a comprehensive, evidence-based process driven by the community, for the community. With over 3,000 touchpoints (on-line or in-person participants) across two rounds of engagement, this vision reflects the diverse voices of New Westminster—including those of Indigenous Peoples, youth, and a wide range of community interest groups.

The Plan is unique in its commitment to three foundational lenses- **Reconciliation; Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility; and Low Carbon Resilience.** These lenses are also the first three of nine focus areas and are inherent in all departmental work and decision-making.

With a 10-Year Implementation Strategy and a long-term vision extending to 2050, this Plan is proactive. It identifies critical gaps to "catch up" with current needs while strategically planning to "keep up" as the population grows. The Plan is designed to be flexible – it can scale up or down based on how the population actually changes. Beyond physical infrastructure, the Plan also prioritizes service excellence through the delivery of diverse, inclusive programs and the high-quality operation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

The Plan uses these lenses to prioritize the needs of underserved neighbourhoods and equity-deserving groups. By synthesizing technical data analysis with extensive community engagement, the Plan identifies where barriers exist and directs investment toward the areas and populations that need it most.

With a 10-year implementation strategy and a long-term vision extending to 2050, this Plan is proactive. It identifies critical gaps to "**catch up**" with current needs while strategically planning to "**keep up**" as the population grows. Beyond physical infrastructure, the Plan also prioritizes service excellence through the delivery of diverse, inclusive programs and the high-quality operation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

Capital projects planned for the next 10 years include new and updated recreation facilities, active park amenities, urban parks, social spaces, and increased natural assets, as well as additional park washrooms and improved connectivity within the parks and recreation system. Looking further ahead, the Plan envisions additional community centres, a small aquatic facility in Queensborough, and expanded sports infrastructure to meet the needs of 2050.

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that implementation will require a long-term commitment to relationship-building and partnerships to achieve new spaces and services that truly serve the diverse community of New Westminster. The delivery of this Plan will therefore be a collective effort. Success will depend on collaboration across all City departments and key partnerships with community organizations, businesses, developers, regional organizations, School District 40, and other levels of government.

Approximately $127.2 million (in 2026 dollars) is anticipated to fund the 10-year implementation plan. Currently, $63.6 million is identified in the 2026–2030 Five-Year Financial Plan, with the remaining $70.9 million slated for future budget cycles. The City utilizes a diverse toolkit to fund the expansion of the parks and recreation system, including property taxes, user fees, and grants. Key growth-funding tools, such as Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for land and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs) for amenities and facilities, ensure that new development contributes to the community's livability. The Plan also recognizes that the delivery of new capital projects must be matched by sustainable increases in operating budgets to ensure parks and recreation assets remain safe and welcoming for all residents.

People, Parks, and Play is a living document. It will guide long-term decision-making, with annual reviews to ensure the City remains agile, accountable, and focused on making New Westminster a livable city for all.





Introduction

A.0 Introduction

A.1 Need for People, Parks, and Play

As New Westminster's population becomes more diverse and the neighbourhoods denser, parks and public spaces are more essential than ever. **People, Parks, and Play** (or the Plan) charts a new course for the future of parks and recreation in the city. Building on the successes of the 2008 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan, this Plan recognizes that with increasing density and limited space, bold solutions are needed to keep residents active outdoors, connected to nature, and engaged in community life through recreation centres, diverse programs, and meaningful partnerships.

The work of the City's Parks and Recreation Department is guided by the following overarching vision, mission, and goal:



Vision

To be a caring, responsive department that is easy and friendly to deal with and provides creative, innovative services and programs through a well-maintained network of community facilities, parks and open spaces.



Mission

To create and facilitate parks and recreation opportunities that enhance quality of life in New Westminster.



Goal

To offer programs and services that are truly worthwhile and will make life better for others. Our efforts will make a significant improvement for the community and enable our department and employees to grow and progress.



People, Parks, and Play was prepared to bring this vision to life. It identifies current and future needs for parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services, providing a 10-Year Implementation Strategy (to 2035) and a long-term outlook to 2050.

The Parks and Recreation Department will lead the plan's implementation in close collaboration with other City departments. All actions align with city-wide plans and policies, including Council's strategic priorities and commitments to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (DEIAR), Truth and Reconciliation, and Climate Action.

Ultimately, this work is about enhancing the quality of life for everyone in New Westminster. By fostering active lifestyles, building community connections, and strengthening our local economy and natural environment, we can support a more engaged, accessible, and vibrant city for all. The Plan recognizes the vital importance of protecting the existing parkland and enhancing natural assets to preserve environmental health and the community's health and well-being.

A.1.1 Foundational Questions and Key Themes

Work on **People, Parks and Play** was guided by a strategic framework prepared by staff and endorsed by City Council. This framework sets the direction for the Plan's development, beginning with four foundational questions to guide the exploration:

1. Who should have access to parks and recreation services?
2. What types of parks and recreation services are needed, and most valued, by the community?
3. In what ways does the City excel in providing parks and recreation services, and where do service gaps exist?
4. How can the City's parks and recreation services best respond to a changing and growing community over the medium and long term?

Topics raised by these questions were consolidated into the following key themes that guided the analysis and structure of this Plan:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism

How can parks and recreation services be more welcoming to people of diverse backgrounds and experiences (e.g., income, gender, culture, race, age, ability, body type)?

Truth Towards Reconciliation

How can New Westminster better embrace local First Nations values, cultures, stories, and art in parks and recreation, and uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Service Adequacy and Standards

How can parks and recreation services respond to community needs as New Westminster grows? Are parks and recreation services currently meeting the needs, and how can gaps be addressed?

Community Belonging, Connections, and Wellbeing

How can parks and recreation services create opportunities for people to connect, build relationships, and participate in their community? What types of spaces and programs do people enjoy most? What is missing?

Local Economy

What role do parks and recreation services play in supporting a vibrant economy including local businesses and tourism?

Climate Resilience

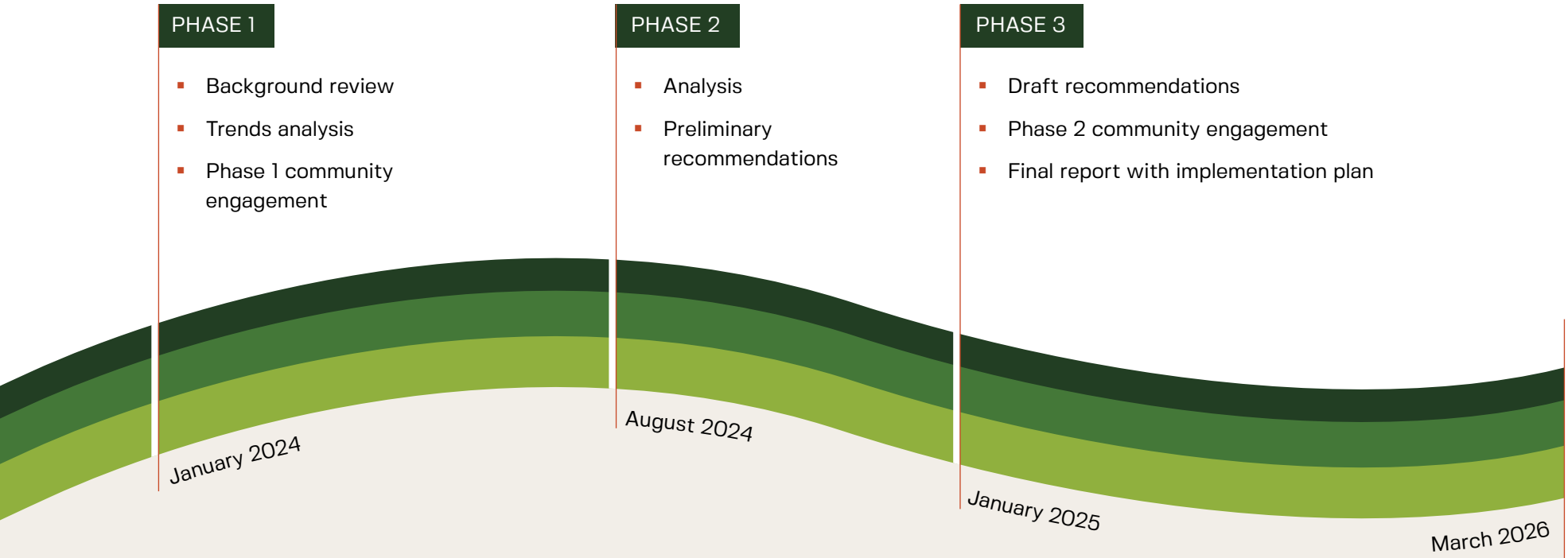
In what ways does climate change impact daily lives in New Westminster? How can parks and recreation help address climate change, reduce our carbon footprint, and adapt to environmental impacts?

Connectivity of Networks

How can parks, greenways, and public spaces be better connected to support active transportation, health, and biodiversity?

A.2 Planning Process

People, Parks, and Play was prepared over three phases, including two comprehensive rounds of community engagement to provide maximum opportunities for community and interest group input to guide the Plan.



Input gathered from Indigenous Peoples, youth, equity-serving organizations, community partners, multiple interest groups, and the broader community is integrated throughout this document and informs the strategic directions throughout this Plan.





A.3 Phase 1 Community Engagement Process

The first round of engagement, in winter and spring of 2024, focused on understanding current community needs, satisfaction levels, and aspirations for the future of parks and recreation. The process involved extensive outreach, including Indigenous Soup and Bannock sessions, youth drop-ins, interest group workshops, public pop-up events, and a community survey that received 612 responses **(Figure 1)**. A detailed summary of all feedback from this phase is available in Phase 1 What We Heard Report.

Figure 1: Phase 1 Community Engagement

Promotion and outreach:

Web page
Survey promoted to 4,075 Be Heard New West subscribers

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

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

Interactive signage
Signage installed in key community locations with QR codes

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

Social media
10 social media posts, receiving 29,333 impressions

What we did

Indigenous engagement
26 Engagement Invites
2 Soup & Bannock sessions
10 participants

Youth drop-ins
6 locations
376 participants

Engagement activities

Pop-ups
8 pop-ups
1,237 participar

Workshops
5 sessions
27 individuals and organizations

Survey
612 respondents

A.4 Analysis Methods

To prepare this Plan, a multi-faceted approach was used to evaluate the existing situation, identify opportunities, and address challenges. This section outlines the primary tools and tasks of the evidence-based analysis:

1. Comparative Analysis

- Collection of trends and best practices locally, nationally, and internationally to serve as inspiration for the plan.
- Comparison of New Westminster's parkland, amenities, and facilities with similar BC municipalities to understand the regional context - Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam and Victoria.

While these cities were selected for their similar urban density, New Westminster's very compact urban form requires a distinct approach, especially in terms of population-based parkland supply. New Westminster does not have the benefit of large natural parks as most of these other cities do, e.g., Vancouver's Stanley Park, Burnaby's Central Park. New Westminster therefore adopts a lower, but ambitious and realistic, population-based parkland supply and also focuses on objectives such as park proximity, diversity of spaces, and overall quality.

- Information on parks and recreation amenities was compiled in 2024 from municipal websites and plans. This data was then sent to senior parks and recreation staff at each municipality for review and verification. To ensure a consistent and up-to-date comparison, all per capita calculations in this analysis use 2024 population data from Statistics Canada (prepared in 2025).

Qualifiers

- Direct comparisons may be affected by different municipal interpretations of amenities (e.g., whether outdoor pools include wading pools).
- For City of North Vancouver, the populations of the City and District of North Vancouver were added together for calculating the supply of indoor facilities, as these are provided jointly through the North Vancouver Recreation Commission.

2. Mapping and Spatial Analysis

- Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping was used to analyze the physical distribution and accessibility of parks, amenities, and facilities across the city. The City's GIS data was acquired and updated for this project.
- Spatial distribution is based on walking distances of 330 metres (five minutes) and 660 metres (10 minutes) using networks comprised of roads, active transportation routes, and trails.

- Statistics Canada data from 2021 was used for the equity analysis because it was the only spatial demographic data available at the time of analysis.
- Growth projections for New Westminster population for 2024 and 2034 used in the population-based supply analysis are from the City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024 – 2049 (prepared by Coriolis), which is available for four city areas – west, east, downtown, Queensborough.

Each analysis used the best data available, which is the reason for slightly different numbers for total population:

- Comparison community analysis used 2024 census as the most recent data available for New Westminster and the other communities
- Projections of supply and needs used the City forecast as the only data that had current population and projections for portions of the city

- Use of mobile device movement data to track the use of New Westminster parks and facilities by residents and non-residents. This anonymous location data can help to understand relative visitor volumes and use patterns (see **Appendix C** Visitor Origin and Movement Patterns).

3. Assets, Programs, and Services Analysis

- The condition and use of existing facilities, programs, and services were evaluated using multiple data sources.
  - The source of use data is the City's Streamlined Asset Management (SLAM) system and staff input
  - The condition of indoor facilities is based on the City's Facility Asset Management Plan (FAMP)
  - Condition of outdoor amenities is based on ongoing condition assessments by City staff based on professional expertise and best practice guidelines

4. Synthesis and Plan Formation

- The project team integrated all research and engagement findings to identify the primary focus areas and lenses for the Plan. Within each focus area, the team then conducted a detailed analysis of strengths and challenges, drawing on input from Indigenous representatives, the community, key partners, interest groups, staff, and technical analysis. This comprehensive analysis directly informed the Plan's strategic direction and actions.

A.5 Phase 2 Community Engagement Process





The second round of engagement aimed to validate the draft strategic directions and key actions that were prepared based on input from Phase 1 Engagement and data analysis. To provide context, participants received a summary of the initial engagement input and key analytical findings.

The process included a series of pop-up events in key public spaces across the city and a community survey, which received 190 responses **(Figure 2)**. The results are summarized in the Phase 2 What We Heard Report.

Figure 2: Phase 2 Community Engagement

What we did

Survey
190 participants

Engagement activities

Pop-ups
7 Pop-ups
655 participants

Promotion and outreach:

Email
Emails were sent through Citypage (email newsletter) and to Be Heard subscribers. Representatives of identified interest groups were contacted directly by email.

Interactive signage
Posters were installed at key parks and recreation facilities in New Westminster. QR codes on signage enabled passersby to quickly access the project website.

Social media
Graphic and text information about opportunities to participate in engagement were shared through the City's Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram accounts.

Project web page
A central project page was hosted on Be Heard New West, which provided information on the project as well as a link to the online survey.

B.0 Context

B.1 The City

New Westminster's development story can help guide the Parks and Recreation Department as it navigates **People, Parks, and Play**'s foundational questions. An understanding of the history can help City staff in identifying the spaces, programs, and services that will best serve the community. Reflections of past populations, places, and activities can enrich the cultural aspects of parks and facilities in the city.

B.1.1 Indigenous History

The area now known as New Westminster is located on unceded and unsurrendered lands of the Halkomelem-speaking peoples. Comprised of three dialects (Halq̓eméylem or upriver, hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ or downriver, and Hul̓q̓umín̓um̓ or island), Halkomelem is a common language spoken by the many First Nations that have been stewards of this land since time immemorial. City use of the term Halkomelem aims to be inclusive and respect the land ties and asserted rights of each Nation.

The City of New Westminster exists through a process of colonialism. It was formed at the expense and erasure of local First Nations, their cultures, sites, systems, languages, and oral histories. Although this loss is considerable, it is not total; there is a significant population of Indigenous Peoples who continue to live in and care for the area. Staff commit to recognizing and supporting Indigenous-led initiatives and culturally significant spaces that support the holistic wellbeing of these groups (newwestcity.ca/indigenous_reconciliation/land-acknowledgement).

New Westminster is an area with overlapping rights and title interests from numerous Nations, villages, bands, and communities. There is also a significant urban Indigenous population residing within the city. It is important to clearly distinguish between these two populations:

- **Traditional Territory (Rights and Title)** refers to the specific ancestral lands, laws, and governance systems of an Indigenous Nation, which form the basis for their inherent collective right to the land itself. The City of New Westminster supports equal opportunities for cultural visibility across the city for all rights and title holders.
- **Urban Indigenous** refers to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals who currently reside in the city, often maintaining cultural connections while advocating for their needs within a modern, off-reserve setting. The City supports equal opportunity for Urban Indigenous communities to contribute to, and benefit from, the City's planning and provision of city services and programs.

B.1.2 Colonial History

Established in the strategic location of the new colony of British Columbia in 1858, New Westminster was incorporated as a City in 1860 and quickly became an administrative, commercial, and transportation hub during the Fraser River and Cariboo gold rushes. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the city became linked to the rest of Canada and the United States by railway. Along with significant waves of immigration, the area developed into a centre for lumber production, salmon canning, agriculture, and shipping from a large commercial port on the Fraser River. These activities forever changed the physical and social fabric of the community.

Settlers from Europe, China, the United States, India, and Japan were all part of this fundamental shift. Over time, these residents formed distinct and significant areas across the city. Some, like New Westminster's diverse Queensbourough neighbourhood, are still reflected today. Others, including the city's three former Chinatowns, were lost due to a history of exclusionary government policies.

New Westminster's early development has been closely intertwined with local lands, waterways, and a diversity of people. The Parks and Recreation Department acknowledges the city's complex evolution and aspires to foster a more equitable and responsible setting for community members. **People, Parks, and Play** will guide staff to better support community belonging and connection by identifying and supporting spaces for all people in the community.

B.1.3 Current Context

New Westminster is a designated Regional City Centre in the Metro Vancouver Growth Strategy and, as of 2021, it was the second densest census subdivision in Canada. The city is strategically located in the geographic centre of Metro Vancouver, offering quick regional access via SkyTrain and highway to surrounding municipalities (Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond, Port Moody, and Vancouver) (**Map 1**).

The forecast is for continued rapid population growth, further accelerated by recent Provincial housing legislation (Bills 44 and 47). To accommodate this, residential density will continue to be heavily focused around the City's five SkyTrain stations through Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and new infill (**Map 4.7**). This approach supports the City's goals for diverse, affordable housing while also increasing the demand for parks and recreation services.

Map 1 Context Map



The city is a compact urban area of 15.6 square kilometres. This compact form makes New Westminster highly walkable for individuals without mobility constraints—most errands can be done on foot within a reasonable amount of time. The city features excellent public transit, including two rapid transit lines and five stations (the highest number of stations per capita in Metro Vancouver), more than 20 bus routes, and multiple Frequent Transit Networks.

Cycling is also a key focus of the City's transportation planning. Work is underway to address gaps and create an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Active Transportation Network with the goal of having all residents within 400 metres of an AAA corridor route. The planned Experience the Fraser trail network is also envisioned to connect communities, trails, and natural features along the Lower Fraser Corridor.

New Westminster's southeast and southwest borders are defined by the Fraser River. While vital for commercial shipping, the river is increasingly relevant for public recreation. Riverfront amenities like the Waterfront Esplanade, Westminster Pier Park, Komagata Maru Perimeter Trail, and Quayside Park provide enjoyable riverfront recreation space for residents and visitors.

The Queensborough neighbourhood, situated on Lulu Island, is geographically separated from the mainland. While connected by the Queensborough Bridge, Q2Q ferry, transit, and bike lanes, this separation poses challenges for residents accessing mainland parks and recreation programs and services, and vice versa.

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Maximizing Available Lands:** Strategically maximizing the functions and quality of existing park space to offset the limited ability to acquire new land.
- **Increasing Equity and Access:** Focusing on equitable distribution and proximity of parks and recreation amenities, particularly to serve dense residential areas (e.g., Transit Oriented Areas).
- **Enhancing Connectivity:** Planning for improved connectivity that links people and places across the city's natural and built barriers.



B.2 Demographics

B.2.1 Population Growth

In 2021, Metro Vancouver's population was estimated to be over 2.6 million. Growth over the following 30 years is projected to add about one million people, to reach 3.8 million by the year 2050. While the population is anticipated to increase across much of BC, growth is expected to be concentrated in the Metro Vancouver/southwest region.

Historically, New Westminster's population has grown more rapidly than the region's, with 20% growth over 10 years, compared to 14% for Metro Vancouver. This trend has recently accelerated. Between 2021 and 2024, New Westminster experienced an average annual growth rate of 3.8%, an extremely fast population growth. This surge, largely due to increases in immigration and non-permanent residents, has placed acute pressure on all city infrastructure, including parks and recreation amenities and facilities.

In 2024, Metro Vancouver prepared the following growth scenarios for New Westminster, providing the context of continued population increases (**Figure 3)**.

Figure 3: Population Projections

	2021	2030	2040	2050
Lower Growth Scenario	82,940	106,020	124,380	135,660
Higher Growth Scenario	82,940	107,080	129,720	148,500

Source: Metro Vancouver Growth Projections, 2024

Based on the high growth scenario, which is used for planning amenities and services, New Westminster's population is projected to reach 148,500 by 2050. This means that the City will need to prepare to accommodate approximately 65,500 new residents by 2050.

While that data provides the overall growth context, the City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast (2024–2049) provides the potential population growth enabled by the Province (Bill 44 and 47). Specifically, the report's high-scenario projections for 2024 and 2034 across the four city districts—West, East, Downtown, and Queensborough—were used to evaluate parkland supply and future recreational needs (**Figure 4)**. This scenario accounts for the increased housing and density now enabled by the Province through Bills 44 and 47. By planning for this potential growth today, we ensure our parks and services are ready to scale up as the population changes.

Figure 4: Existing and Projected Population for Four City Districts

Area	2024 Population Estimate	2034 Population Estimate
West	30,427	38,177
East	30,427	36,558
Downtown	17,232	25,598
Queensborough	12,713	16012
Total	**90,799**	**116,345**

Source: City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024 – 2049 (Coriolis, 2025)

Further analysis by the City has estimated the distribution of this growth:

- 34% of the population growth downtown
- 10% of the population growth in Queensborough
- 56% of the population growth in the rest of the City

Population Characteristics

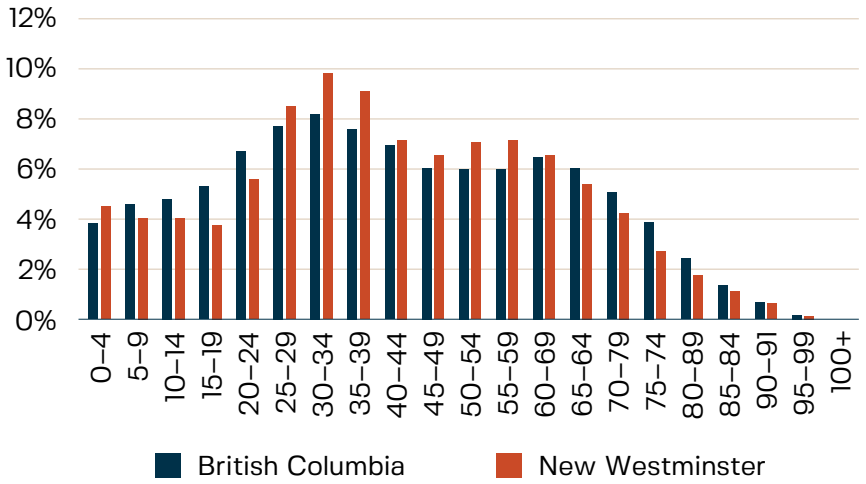
New Westminster's population is growing and changing, reflecting the rapid growth across Metro Vancouver. The data in the remainder of this section is the foundation of this Plan, as it defines the future community to be served. The analysis of who lives here, how they live, and the challenges they face directly shape the recommendations, including the planning and design of parks, types of programs offered, and policies on accessibility and financial assistance.

Unless otherwise specified, the following data is from the 2021 Statistics Canada Census. While more recent 2024 data is becoming available, the 2021 Census provides the most comprehensive and detailed snapshot for comparisons.

B.2.2 Age Distribution

Compared to BC, the 2021 population in New Westminster was greater than the BC population in the age groups from 25 to 59 (**Figure 5**).

Figure 5: Percentage of population per age group, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada

Between 2016 and 2021, New Westminster's child and youth (0-17 year-old) population grew by 10.4%. The largest increase was in the 10-to-14 year-old age group (a 19.5% increase). In 2021, 25.3% of all children and youth in New Westminster lived in low-rise apartments (one to four storeys) and 20.9% lived in mid- and high-rise apartments (five storeys and above).

New Westminster also saw a 17.2% growth of the senior population (65 years and above) between 2016 and 2021. There was a higher proportion of seniors living within sub-areas of the City's neighbourhoods, such as 25.9% in the Quayside area (downtown), and 30.2% living within Uptown. There were almost twice as many female older seniors (85+ year old) than males.

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Parks as Backyards:** With nearly half of all children and youth living in apartments, local parks and public spaces must function as backyards. This intensifies the need for high-quality public spaces within or close to dense neighbourhoods.
- **Targeted Youth Amenities:** The growth in the 10 to 14 year-old population requires a focus on amenities that serve this age group, such as youth centres, skate parks, bike parks, basketball courts, and safe spaces with knowledgeable staff.
- **Aging-in-Place:** The growing senior population drives the need for accessible pathways, seating, washrooms, social spaces, and senior-focused programming in community centres.

B.2.3 Visible Minorities and Immigration

New Westminster is home to an increasingly diverse population. Between 2016 and 2021, the visible minority population grew by 34.3% while the population of non-visible minorities decreased by 2.8%. As of 2021, 46.8% of New Westminster's population was a visible minority.

The city has seen a steady rise in East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Latin American, and African populations. Geographic distribution varies:

- South Asians are the largest visible minority group in Queensborough (excluding Port Royal), Connaught Heights, West End, east part of downtown, and Massey Victory Heights.
- Chinese are the largest visible minority group in Port Royal, Quayside, west part of downtown/Stewardson Triangle part of Brow of the Hill, north part of Uptown Central part of downtown, Glenbrooke South, and south Sapperton.
- Filipinos are the largest visible minority group in parts of Brow of the Hill, Moody Park/Kelvin, and the south part of Uptown.

New Westminster had a large proportion of recent immigrants, with 5,050 immigrants between 2016 and 2021 (6.5% of the population). The top five source countries were India (15.8%), China (10.7%), Philippines (8.8%), Brazil (7.6%), and Eritrea (7.0%).

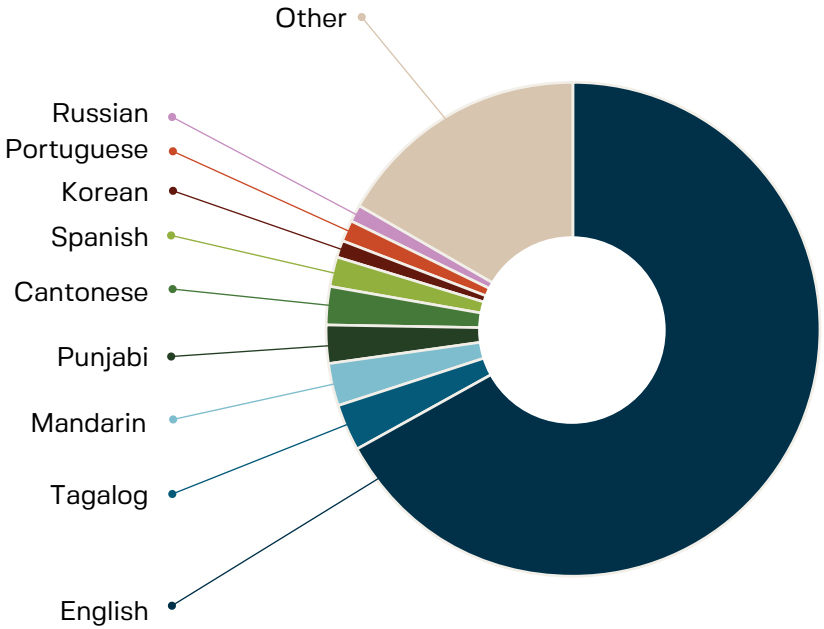
Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Culturally-Relevant Spaces:** Parks and facilities that accommodate multi-generational families and larger social gatherings are needed, such as covered picnic shelters, large gathering areas, and amenities for sports like basketball.
- **Inclusive Programming:** Diverse programs that reflect the cultural interests of the community, including festivals, arts, and sports from around the world, are required to reflect the population.

B.2.4 Languages

The number of New Westminster residents who did not know English grew from 2.7% in 2016 to 2.9% in 2021 (**Figure 6)**. The top non-English mother tongues were (in order of largest population to smallest) Tagalog, Mandarin, Punjabi, Cantonese, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian.

Figure 6: Mother Tongues in New Westminster



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Communication Barriers:** This data highlights the need for a multi-lingual communication strategy focusing on universal design and digital tools (e.g., pictograms, plain language, QR codes linking to digitally translatable content). This approach involves providing accessible information- including wayfinding signage, program guides, and website information- to a wide audience, regardless of their native languages or literacy level, while remaining cost-effective and accurate.
- **Staffing:** A diverse, multi-lingual staff who can interact with and support residents in their first language can help new residents adapt and feel welcome in the community.

Religion

New Westminster residents have a variety of religious beliefs. In 2021, the most common religious denominations were Christians (38.9%), Sikh (4.8%), Muslim (3.4%), and Hindu (2.6%). A large portion (46.9%) had no religious affiliation.

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Program Awareness:** Staff awareness of various religious and cultural holidays can support inclusive event scheduling.
- **Program Design:** Religious beliefs may affect specific program needs, such as female-only swims or other activities that respect cultural and religious practices.

B.2.5 Economics

In 2023, 15.6% of New Westminster residents (12,770 people) lived in poverty[1]. This rate was higher for seniors (16.2%) than for children (14.1%). These rates have fluctuated, rising after 2020 as pandemic-related government benefits were reduced, demonstrating the financial precarity of many households

Poverty rates were highest in neighbourhoods like Connaught Heights (19.4%) and areas in Brow of the Hill and Uptown. The overall poverty rates in 2023 varied from 8.8% in census tract 200.01 (Port Royal area) to 19.4% in census tract 201.00 (Connaught Heights). In 2021, 29.5% of all New Westminster households lived in unaffordable housing, a rate higher than the Canadian average.

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Parks and Recreation as an Essential Service:** For those experiencing high poverty and unaffordability, public parks and recreation are often an essential service. They provide critical, low-cost opportunities for physical and mental health, social connections, and child development.
- **Reducing Financial Barriers:** This data informs the City's Financial Assistance Program. It also confirms the need for free and low-cost programming available to residents of all income levels.

B.2.6 People Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness as a social issue has increased across Metro Vancouver, including New Westminster. Between the March 2020 and March 2023 Point-in-Time (PiT) Counts, New Westminster saw a 65% increase in individuals counted (from 123 to 203). The city saw a further 7% increase in the March 2025 PiT Count, which identified 217 people experiencing homelessness. Of those, 74 were unsheltered and 143 were residing in shelter settings. PiT Counts are an undercount, as they miss people in temporary situations (e.g., "couch-surfing") as well as people who may be in difficult-to-find places outdoors and elsewhere.

There is a significant over-representation of enumerated self-identified Indigenous Peoples among people experiencing homelessness. In 2025, while Indigenous Peoples represented 3.1% of the total population, they accounted for 38% of the unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. This is a direct result of the forced displacement and intergenerational trauma caused by colonialism; 59% of counted Indigenous Peoples in 2025 reported a personal or family history with residential schools. The 2025 data also showed most individuals had long-term ties to New Westminster (one to six years or more), indicating the unhoused population is not as transient as sometimes perceived.

1 Low Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT) and annual tax-filer data

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Operational Impacts:** As public spaces, parks are often used by unhoused residents for sheltering. This has direct operational impacts on park maintenance (e.g., clean-up of personal items, waste) and requires staff to navigate complex social challenges.
- **Trauma-Informed Response:** Park and recreation staff are on the front lines and require training and support to interact with those sheltering in parks in a compassionate, safe, and trauma-informed manner, in partnership with the City's Crises Response Team and Community Liaison Officers.
- **Reconciliation in Practice:** The over-representation of Indigenous Peoples experiencing homelessness underscores the need for all City services, including parks and recreation, to be culturally safe and responsive, directly linking to the City's Truth and Reconciliation goals.

B.2.7 Commuting

In 2021, most commuters in New Westminster drove to work; 22.5% used public transit and 6.3% walked. A large number of residents commute to other cities, including Vancouver (5,930), Burnaby (5,515), Richmond (2,465), and Surrey (2,080).

Implications for parks and recreation include:

- **Residents with Limited Free Time:** Commuting patterns mean many residents have limited free time during the week. This highlights the need for high-quality, accessible local parks and facilities that residents can use after work.
- **Program Scheduling:** Commuting drives demand for evening and weekend programming, as well as registered programs that families can plan their schedules around.

B.3 Regional Context

As a geographically small and central municipality, New Westminster's parks and recreation system is deeply interconnected with those of its neighbours (**Map 1**). Inter-relationships with Metro Vancouver and the four surrounding cities—Burnaby, Richmond, Coquitlam, and Surrey—are critical to planning.

New Westminster residents live, work, and play across municipal boundaries, using nearby regional parks and community centres. Likewise, surrounding residents visit New Westminster's destination parks and facilities like Westminster Pier Park and təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre.

Understanding this regional context is essential so the City can identify partnership opportunities, make strategic investments that complement (rather than duplicate) high-cost amenities, and learn from challenges and trends that affect the entire region. The following information outlines these key considerations.

B.3.1 Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver's assets in the city include key parks, greenways, and jointly-owned lands that are integral to the local park system. Examples include:

- **Sapperton Landing Park:** The one designated Metro Vancouver Regional Park within the city.
- **Regional Greenways:** Portions of the Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway, the Central Valley Greenway, BC Parkway, and Experience the Fraser pass through New Westminster.
- **Westburnco Reservoir:** A Metro Vancouver-owned site leased to the City for public park use.

- **1400 Quayside Drive:** A riverfront site jointly owned by the City and Metro Vancouver. It currently houses a Metro Vancouver combined sewer overflow tank, with the remaining lands designated for other potential future uses such as housing and park development.
- **Future Park Sites:** A new urban park is planned near 11th Street (between Auckland and Quebec) related to the Annacis water supply tunnel. Metro Vancouver also owns an undeveloped parcel at the mouth of the Brunette River intended for future regional park purposes.

Metro Vancouver visitor surveys (2013, 2019) show that the most common activities in regional parks are walking/hiking, dog walking, and nature viewing. The top reasons for visiting are to appreciate nature, exercise, and be active, with trails and washrooms being the most important facilities.

There are significant opportunities for New Westminster to continue collaborating with Metro Vancouver on the planning and development of Metro lands. The organizations share many common interests, such as natural area protection and multi-use greenways. These partnerships are key to enhancing local and regional park opportunities and their connections.

B.3.2 Burnaby

Burnaby shares the longest border with New Westminster, making the interaction between the two communities a significant factor in parks and recreation planning. Several key Burnaby facilities are close to New Westminster, including the Edmonds Community Centre (pool, gyms, youth/seniors' centres) and the Rosemary Brown Recreation Centre (rinks, multi-purpose rooms).

Major new developments in Burnaby may also affect New Westminster's park and recreation needs:

- **The Edmonds Neighbourhood:** A major redevelopment planned for 30,000 people will include new open space and potential recreation facilities.
- **The City of Lougheed:** A large-scale project that will feature a new Burnaby Lake Centre and Cameron Community Centre.
- **Other Upgrades:** Upgrades and expansions slated for Bonsor Recreation Centre, Confederation Park Community Centre, Rosemary Brown Recreation Centre in South Burnaby, and the Jack Crosby Memorial Sports Box at Riverway.

There is significant cross-community use of recreation facilities. New Westminster residents use Burnaby's parks and facilities, a trend that increased notably during the Canada Games Pool closure. Conversely, Burnaby residents are frequent users of New Westminster's destination amenities, particularly təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, Westminster Pier Park, and Queen's Park. Both cities give their own residents priority registration, though program costs are the same for all users.

The following points were identified as common themes:

Trends

- Facilities in both cities offer complementary services (e.g., Burnaby's rinks, New Westminster's aquatic centre) that augment regional opportunities.
- Metro Vancouver and TransLink are critical partners in developing active transportation networks within both cities.
- High demand exists in both cities for cultural offerings in community centres and outdoor public spaces.
- Burnaby's development of covered outdoor sports courts (e.g., for lacrosse and pickleball) is setting a new regional best practice.
- Both cities are seeing demand for specialized, high-cost amenities like water-based artificial turf for field hockey.

Challenges

- Recruiting and retaining lifeguards is a significant regional challenge, with municipalities often employing from the same limited pool of qualified candidates.
- There is currently no formal structure for coordination between the cities; relationships are primarily casual.
- Both cities face significant challenges in acquiring new parkland in rapidly densifying growth areas.
- Ensuring walkable access to parks and facilities remains a challenge in many neighbourhoods.
- Both cities face difficult decisions about aging outdoor pools and wading pools, with a trend toward converting these facilities to spray parks.

Opportunities

- Collaborate on new lifeguard recruitment strategies to attract a more diverse pool of candidates.
- Coordinate on park and facility planning, especially near the municipal border, to improve walkable access for residents in both communities.
- Establish a formal structure for coordinating new amenity development to complement services and avoid duplicating costly, niche facilities (e.g., archery, rowing, specialized turf fields).

B.3.3 Richmond, Coquitlam, and Surrey

Richmond

New Westminster shares a short western boundary with Richmond (on Lulu Island). Due to traffic congestion on the Queensborough Bridge, some New Westminster residents in Queensborough travel to Richmond for services. The primary destination is the Hamilton Community Centre, which focuses on health, wellness, and fitness, and offers childcare used by some New Westminster families. Conversely, Richmond residents use New Westminster facilities, primarily the Queensborough Community Centre and təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre.

Coquitlam

Coquitlam shares a short border at the eastern edge of New Westminster. Residents are often drawn to Coquitlam's regional attractions, such as the wave pool at the City Centre Aquatic Complex. The future Fraser Mills Community Centre, which will be close to New Westminster and include a pool, gym, and fitness centre, will also likely draw residents. Coquitlam's new outdoor pool at Mundy Park was built with significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures, such as an air source heat pump and heat recapture, which resulted in higher capital costs.

Surrey

As residents must cross a bridge to reach Surrey, there is less cross-border use of facilities. The North Surrey Sport and Ice complex is the most likely draw for New Westminster residents. Surrey residents may travel to New Westminster for its destination facilities, particularly the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre.

The following are some of the common trends, challenges, and opportunities shared by New Westminster, Richmond, Coquitlam, and Surrey:

Trends

- The region is generally lagging in the provision of new parks and recreation facilities relative to the rapid pace of population growth.
- Climate change is influencing how facilities are built and maintained, e.g., covering outdoor amenities (like sports boxes) to protect them from weather and extend their use.
- There is a common focus on renewing old parks, including converting grass fields to artificial turf to extend times and seasons of use.
- There is a common focus on applying a gender equity lens to park design and recreation planning.
- The popularity of pickleball is driving residents to travel across municipal borders to find specialized courts.
- New sports are gaining traction, e.g., Kabbadi (a court is located at North Surrey Sport and Ice) and cricket, which is seeing high demand in Surrey (and a potential "Olympic effect" from the 2028 games).
- Passionate debate over dog management and off-leash areas is common in all municipalities.
- All communities in this group use a "resident-first" registration system.
- Despite this, residents regularly cross borders for destination facilities (e.g., the 50+ population traveling to New Westminster's Century House) or due to amenity gaps (e.g., New Westminster residents travelling to cricket fields and sand volleyball courts elsewhere).
- The Hyack Swim Club, which originated in New Westminster, operates largely in New Westminster and Coquitlam.

Challenges

- All municipalities are struggling to engage equity-deserving groups and residents who are too busy for traditional consultation.
- Low rates of physical activity, especially among youth, are a common regional issue.
- Outdoor pools present a major challenge. While popular, their high operating costs (energy, maintenance) and short season are prompting cities to reconsider them. For example, Coquitlam reduced its pool inventory from six to two, and Surrey is exploring converting some of its eight outdoor pools into spray or mist parks.
- Access to childcare is a regional challenge, with many families crossing municipal borders to find it.
- It is challenging to secure dedicated municipal staff positions for recreation planning.

Opportunities

- Coordinate across the region on the planning and funding of major new facilities, especially for specialized sports (e.g., synchronized swimming, hammer throw) to avoid duplication.
- Integrate and connect active transportation corridors across municipal boundaries (e.g., the Hamilton/ Queensborough bike route).
- Connect on ways to reach new demographics for lifeguarding careers and to expand the overall talent pool.
- Continue to collaborate through inter-municipal forums such as the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Advisory Committee and the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) to address shared challenges and advocate for provincial support.



C.0 Planning and Policy Framework

People, Parks, and Play is guided and supported by a robust framework of wide-ranging City direction **(Figure 7)**. The documents listed below represent a non-exhaustive collection of city-wide overarching strategies, as well as more focused, targeted initiatives, plans, policies and bylaws.

The list below demonstrates the intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City. This highlights the high level of collaboration and coordination required for the parks and recreation system to be successful- ensuring it both supports and is supported by, the work of all City departments.

Figure 7: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
City Wide	Accessibility Plan	2023	Accessibility Plan
	Age-Friendly Community Strategy	2017 (Update In Progress)	Age-Friendly Community Strategy
	Asset Management Strategy	2017	Asset Management Policy
	Childcare Strategy	2016	Childcare Strategy
	City Brand Guidelines	2025	Our Brand
	City-Wide Land Acquisition Strategy	In Progress	
	City-Wide Public Toilet Strategy	In Progress	
	City-Wide Retail Strategy	In Progress	
	Council Strategic Priorities Plan	2023–2026	Council Strategic Priorities Plan
	Crises Response Pilot Project	2023	Crises Response Pilot Project
	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (DEIAR) Framework	2022	DEIAR Framework
	Extreme Heat Preparedness	2023	Stay Cool
	Facilities Asset Management Plan (FAMP)	2024	FAMP

Figure 7 Continued: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
City Wide (continued)	Floodplain Management Strategy Update	2022	Floodplain Management Strategy Update
	Food Security and Action Plan	2018 (Update In Progress)	Food Action Security Plan
	Homelessness Action Strategy	2022	Homelessness Action Strategy
	Master Transportation Plan	2015 (Updated 2022)	Master Transportation Plan
	Official Community Plan 2025 Housing Update	In Progress	
	Our City 2041: Official Community Plan	2017	Our City 2041
	Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan	2008 (Update In Progress)	Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
	Public Art Policy	2021	Public Art Policy
	Public Engagement Policy	2021	Public Engagement Policy
	Riverfront Vision	2016	
	Sanctuary City Policy	2021	Sanctuary City Policy
	Social Media Participant Use Policy	2025	Social Media Participant Use Policy
	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action	2017	Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action
	UNDRIP Action Plan	In Progress	

Figure 7 Continued: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
Parks, Open Space, and Environmental Stewardship	Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy	2022	Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy
	Cemetery Master Plan	In Progress	
	Hume Park Master Plan	2022	Hume Park Master Plan
	Integrated Stormwater Management Plan	2008	Volume 1 Volume 2
	People, Parks and Pups Strategy	2022	People, Parks and Pups Strategy
	Queen's Park Master Plan	2013	Queen's Park Master Plan
	Queen's Park Farm Transition Master Plan	2023	Queen's Park Farm Transition Master Plan
	Riverfront Park Master Plan	2019	660 Quayside Park Master Plan
	Tree Planting Master Plan 2020-2030	2019	Tree Planting Master Plan
	Urban Forest Management Strategy	2016	Urban Forest Management Strategy
	Westminster Pier Park Master Plan	2010	Westminster Pier Park Master Plan
Recreation	Access and Inclusion Policy and Financial Assistance Program	2021	Access and Inclusion Policy and Procedure
	Arena Strategy	2021	Arena Strategy
	Gymnasium Strategy	2021	Gymnasium Strategy

Figure 7 Continued: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
Mobility	All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan	2022	All Ages and Ability Active Transportation Network
	Downtown Transportation Plan	2020	Downtown Transportation Plan
	Electric Mobility Strategy	2022	eMobility Strategy
	Queensborough Transportation Plan	2024	Queensborough Transportation Plan
	Sapperton & Massey-Victory Heights Transportation Plan	2018	Sapperton & Massey Victory Heights Transportation Plan
	Uptown Streetscape Vision	2020	Uptown Streetscape Vision
Climate Action	Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan	In Progress	
	Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)	2022	Community Energy and Emissions Plan
	Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (CEERS)	2020	Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy
	Environmental Strategy and Action Plan	2018	Environmental Strategy and Action Plan
	Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action	2022	Seven Bold Steps Key Performance Indicators 2024 Report
Operations	Public Works Facilities and Workforce Framework	In Progress	
	Solid Waste Master Plan	2025	Solid Waste Master Plan
Finance	Financing Growth Strategy	In Progress	

Figure 7 Continued: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
Neighbourhood and Community Plans	22nd Street SkyTrain Station Neighbourhood Vision	2024	22nd Street SkyTrain Station Neighbourhood Vision
	Development Permit Areas	2023	Map of Development Permit Areas
	Downtown Building and Public Realm Design Guidelines and Master Plan	2016	Downtown Building and Public Realm Design Guidelines and Master Plan
	Downtown Community Plan	2010	Downtown Community Plan
	Queensborough Community Plan	2014	Queensborough Community Plan
	Queen's park Heritage Conservation Area	2017	Guide: Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area
Bylaws	Amenity Cost Charges Bylaw	In Progress	
	Animal Care and Control Bylaw No. 7586	2013	Animal Care and Control Bylaw No. 7586
	Beekeeping Bylaw No. 6648	2000	Beekeeping Bylaw No. 6648
	Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 8264	2021	Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 8264
	Development Cost Charges Bylaw No. 8327	2022 (Update In Progress)	Development Cost Charges Bylaw No. 8327
	Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaw No. 7754	2016	Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaw No. 7754
	Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw No. 7850	2016	Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw No. 7850
	Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925	2017 (Update underway)	Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925
	Parks & Recreation Fees 2025 Bylaw No. 6673	2025 (Update in 2026)	Parks & Recreation Fees 2025 Bylaw No. 6673

Figure 7 Continued: Intersection of parks and recreation with every department in the City

Focus Area	Strategy/ Initiative/ Plan/ Policy/ Bylaw	Adoption/ Status	Hyperlink
Bylaws (continued)	Parks Regulations Bylaw No. 3646	1959	Parks Regulations Bylaw No. 3646
	Pesticides Bylaw No. 7288	2008	Pesticides Bylaw No. 7288
	Riparian Protection Bylaw No. 7033	2005	Riparian Protection Bylaw No. 7033
	Sign Bylaw No. 7867		Sign Bylaw No. 7867
	Smoking Control Bylaw No. 7867	1995	Smoking Control Bylaw No. 7867
	Solid Waste Regulation Bylaw No. 7634	2014	Solid Waste Regulation Bylaw No. 7634
	Street and sidewalk Patio Bylaw No. 8318	2022	Street and Sidewalk Patio Bylaw No. 8318
	Street and Traffic Bylaw No. 7664	2015	Street and Traffic Bylaw No. 7664
	Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw No. 7142	2007	Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw No. 7142
	Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw No. 7799	2016	Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw No. 7799
	Water Shortage Response Bylaw No. 6948	2004	Water Shortage Response Bylaw No. 6948

C.3.1 Strategic Priorities Plan (2023–2026)

Council's 2023–2026 Strategic Priorities Plan guides the City's work by focusing on five key areas **(Figure 8)**:

Community Belonging and Connecting – a community where everyone belongs and has the opportunity to connect and contribute

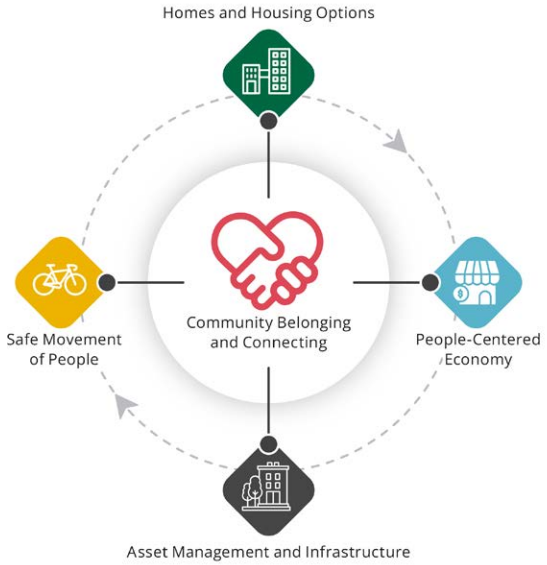
Homes and Housing Options – clear the way for all types of homes needed by people today and tomorrow, prioritizing homes for those with the greatest need

People-Centered Economy – a local, nimble, resilient economy that serves our local community

Safe Movement of People – prioritize the movement of people on foot, cycle and transit on streets that are safer for all

Asset Management and Infrastructure – resilient infrastructure that meets the community's needs today and into the future

Figure 8: Five Areas of Focus, 2023–2026 Council Strategic Priorities Plan



Lens and Foundations

The strategic priorities are viewed using contexts that are both foundations and lenses. Foundations are the historical context done to date that we build on and adapt from. Lenses are how we should view the work as we move forward. Short descriptions are provided below:

1. **Reconciliation:** Strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
2. **Public Engagement:** Meaningfully engaging the community to inform City decisions.
3. **Climate Action and Environment:** Taking bold action to respond to the climate crisis.
4. **DEIAR (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism):** Removing systemic barriers for equity and inclusion.
5. **Financial Resiliency:** Ensuring the City's long-term financial health and sustainability.
6. **Organizational Effectiveness:** Continuously improving services to be responsive and effective.

Our Vision

(per Strategic Priorities Plan)

A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

C.3.2 Our City 2041: Official Community Plan (2017, updated in 2023 and in 2026)

The OCP provides direction to realize New Westminster's opportunities and manage assets and issues to ensure that the city remains one of the most livable communities in Metro Vancouver. It describes the kind of community that the municipality wishes to evolve into and acknowledges the importance of shaping growth in a way that is responsive to the city's distinct circumstances. On January 26, 2026, Council supported amendments to the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw to implement Transit Oriented Development Areas, the Townhouse Program, and the Non-Profit Affordable Housing Initiative.

OCP Vision Statement

New Westminster is a healthy, inclusive and thriving community where people feel connected with each other. This sustainable city showcases a spectacular natural environment, public spaces and unique neighbourhoods that are well-integrated and accessible. Superior urban design integrates its distinctive character, heritage assets and cultural identity. Growth and development provide a variety of services and employment opportunities that contribute to a high quality of life for all.

Parks and Recreation in the OCP

(Goal 9) The OCP's primary goal for parks and recreation is: "New Westminster provides excellent programs, events and recreation opportunities for all within a high-quality, comprehensive network of parks, open spaces and facilities."

Key policies to achieve this goal include:

- **Policy 9.1:** Maintain and develop a network of trails and greenways to ensure a high-quality recreational experience.
- **Policy 9.2:** Provide well-designed parks and open spaces that accommodate and respond to the needs and demands of the diverse and growing community.
- **Policy 9.3:** Ensure versatile recreation facilities and programming that are responsive to the changing needs of the community.
- **Policy 9.4:** Find innovative opportunities to create parks and open spaces.
- **Policy 9.5:** Create connections to and along The Riverfront while also enhancing the diversity of experiences and activities.

Other Relevant OCP Goals and Policies

In addition to Goal 9, this plan is guided by policies from several other OCP chapters, including:

- **Environment and Resilience:** Policies related to protecting biodiversity and natural areas, enhancing the urban forest, and climate change adaptation (e.g., managing stormwater, urban heat, air quality) directly impact park planning and design as well as recreation centres.
- **Community Health and Social Equity:** Policies that support community well-being, equity, and inclusion for all residents (including seniors, youth, and vulnerable populations) are foundational to recreation programming and barrier-free access.
- **Urban Design and Public Realm:** Policies guiding the design of non-traditional urban park spaces- including streets, plazas, and privately-owned public spaces (POPS)- and the integration of recreation facilities. This is important for weaving new parks into a dense urban environment and for creating active community hubs through the co-location of services, which uses land efficiently and establishes focal points for public life.
- **Transportation:** Policies supporting the "Safe Movement of People" directly connect to the planning of trails, greenways, and access to parks and recreation facilities.

The OCP is being updated to align with several new housing initiatives and provincial legislative changes. The update aims to enable well-located homes that meet the diverse needs of our growing community.

C.1 Plan Framework

C.1.1 Community Context and Strategic Framework

People, Parks, and Play is grounded in New Westminster's unique community context, which presents four significant challenges:

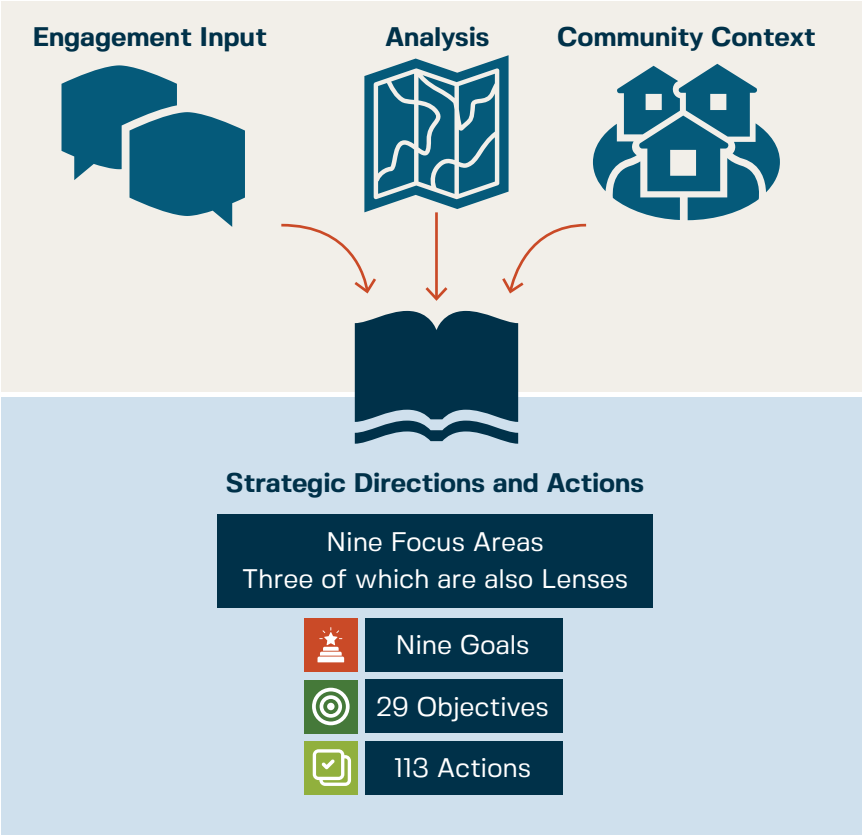
- **Rapid Growth:** Previous and potential ongoing population growth with mandated provincial housing targets.
- **Land Constraints:** A limited land base, resulting in a growing deficit of parkland and space for recreation facilities.
- **Changing Needs:** An evolving population with new and more diverse recreational demands.
- **Social Crises:** Community impacts of the housing, toxic drug, and mental health crises.

This complex reality demands innovative approaches that are different from a typical parks and recreation plan.

The **strategic directions and actions** synthesize the following (**Figure 9**):

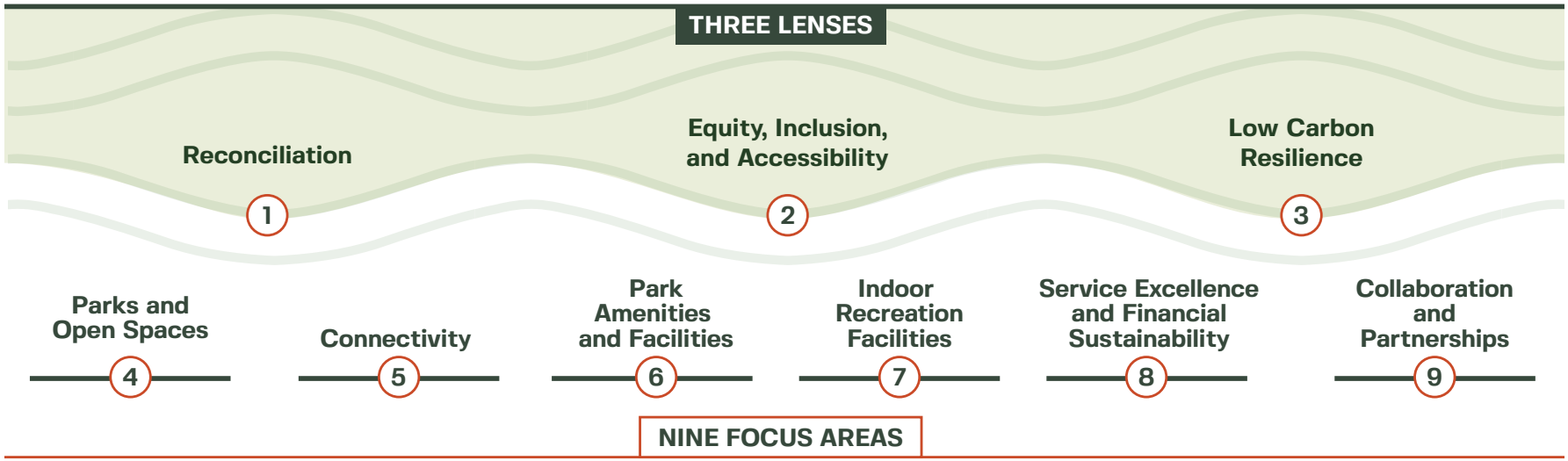
- What we heard from the community through in-person and virtual methods
- Analysis of engagement input, data, investigations, research, GIS data, and visitor origin and movement patterns
- Community context

Figure 9: Plan Framework



C.2 Focus Areas and Lenses

People, Parks, and Play is guided by nine interconnected focus areas. The first three also serve as foundational lenses that are applied to all of the work:



C.3 Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Within each focus area, the plan includes goals, objectives, and actions:

Goals
Broad, long-term aspirational statements

Objectives
Measurable targets to track progress toward each goal

Actions
Specific, tangible tasks required to support each objective

C.4 Plan Format

This document provides a summary of the context and lists the goals, objectives, and actions for each focus area.

Appendix B: Context and Analysis, presents the following:

- Additional detail on the context, where applicable
- What we heard on the focus area
- Analysis
- Needs, where applicable



Focus Areas

Focus Area 1

Reconciliation

p35

Focus Area 2

Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

p41

Focus Area 3

Low Carbon Resilience

p47

Focus Area 4

Parks and Open Spaces

p51

Focus Area 5

Connectivity

p81

Focus Area 6

Park Amenities and Facilities

p89

Focus Area 7

Indoor Recreation Facilities

p107

Focus Area 8

Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability

p119

Focus Area 9

Collaboration and Partnerships

p133



FOCUS AREA 1

1.0 Reconciliation

1.1 Context

New Westminster is on unceded lands and colonization continues to cause harm. As a direct consequence of historic trauma and ongoing systemic barriers, Indigenous Peoples are disproportionally underrepresented in municipal services and other facets of civic life. At the same time, Indigenous communities are resilient, with rich cultures and generational knowledge that continue to endure.

The City of New Westminster has been working to build relationships with Nations, villages, bands, and communities that have asserted their rights and interests to this land. Likewise, both Indigenous (including First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Indigenous) and non-Indigenous residents have expressed a desire for greater representation of and deeper collaboration with Indigenous Peoples.

Urban Indigenous Peoples are First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals living in cities, towns or rural areas away from their traditional territories, a growing and diverse population with complex identities.

First Nations refers to the distinct Indigenous peoples of Canada (excluding Métis and Inuit) who have unique cultures, languages and governance, often identified as over 600 nations.





The City's commitment to reconciliation is grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation 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). The City understands and recognizes the importance of moving beyond positive intent and toward action in walking the path of reconciliation. One important step in that journey is **People, Parks, and Play**, which strives to bring to life the knowledge and input provided by Indigenous Peoples.

During the planning process for **People, Parks, and Play**, local Indigenous-serving organizations and Indigenous Peoples have shared that:

- **Cultural representation, inclusion, and education** means: providing Nation-specific information and resources; creating spaces to represent Indigenous stories and offer cultural programming; understanding urban Indigenous history and relationships with the land; providing more education and space for ceremonies and other cultural practices; and incorporating Indigenous cultures and histories into the design of parks and recreation facilities.
- **Accessibility and engagement** means: reducing barriers to accessing parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services for self-identified Indigenous peoples; providing support for access to programs and services; engaging with Indigenous youth; and supporting greater Indigenous representation and participation in planning.
- **Collaboration and support** means: providing positions for Indigenous personnel; incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and education into outdoor spaces; and strengthening collaborations and relationships.

Further knowledge and input from Indigenous Peoples and the broader community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

1.2 Goal

Advance reconciliation through authentic collaboration, cultural integration, and equitable access for Indigenous Peoples.



1.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 1.1: Establish, nurture, and maintain reciprocal relationships with Indigenous partners and communities.

Reciprocity is important to how Indigenous Peoples have always been in relationship with the land and with one another. Through its role in parks and recreation, the City can leverage its mandate as a provider of public spaces, programs, and opportunities to create and strengthen its own relationships with Indigenous Peoples. This work involves staff training and development that supports safe and respectful engagement with First Nation partners and Indigenous community members.

Staff development examples include training on UNDRIP, colonization history, trauma-informed practices, cultural protocols, and an appreciation that the overlapping traditional territories of First Nation rights holders – as well as the lived experiences of urban Indigenous Peoples – require diverse and flexible approaches to engagement and relationship-building.

Actions

1.1.1 Engage meaningfully with Indigenous communities in all aspects of parks and recreation planning, design, and management.

1.1.2 Formalize protocols for engaging with Indigenous communities, recognizing that there are variances in ways of collaborating and conducting business among different Nations and Indigenous communities.

1.1.3 Gauge interest from Host Nations in a range of collaboration opportunities for the future of the Westminster Pier Park fire site, Muni-Evers Park, and other riverfront initiatives, acknowledging their traditional and contemporary connections with the Fraser River.

Objective 1.2: Weave Indigenous knowledge and culture throughout parks and recreation spaces and services, in partnership with First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples.

Generational knowledge and cultural expression – both traditional and contemporary – are rich among Indigenous Peoples whose territories and homes exist in New Westminster. This living culture includes language, stories, ceremony, artwork, ways of being on the land and with one another, and so much more.

By making visible Indigenous knowledge and presence in parks and recreation, the City can help demonstrate Indigenous culture as a permanent presence- past, present, and future. Through co-creative processes, the City can seek guidance on how Indigenous knowledge, stories, histories, and cultural practices can help authentically shape programs, facilities, parks, open spaces, and natural areas, including the waterfront.



Actions

1.2.1 Work collaboratively with and learn from First Nation and Indigenous communities to create holistic, equitable, and sustainable plans and policies.

1.2.2 Weave Indigenous stories, cultural expressions, traditional uses, and safe spaces for practicing culture into facilities, parks, and other public spaces.

1.2.3 Respectfully and authentically integrate Indigenous knowledge in major planning and program initiatives where possible.

1.2.4 Foster a deeper community-wide understanding of local Indigenous cultures, ways of knowing, and history. This history includes colonization and trauma, as well as the resilience, rich traditions, and generational knowledge that continue to endure in Indigenous communities.

1.2.5 Introduce Indigenous-led programs, with a focus on Elders and youth that support cultural practices and knowledge-sharing.

1.2.6 Integrate Indigenous plants and ecological knowledge with Nation(s)-approved interpretive signage in parks and open spaces, recognizing the diversity of dialects to be considered.

1.2.7 Update the park and facility naming policy to support truth, reconciliation, and decolonization.



Objective 1.3: Advance Indigenous access to and inclusion in services and programs.

Physical, economic, and administrative barriers prevent many Indigenous residents from participating in parks and recreation programs and services. The underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among parks and recreation staff limits internal capacity and impacts cultural understanding, making it challenging for many Indigenous participants to feel understood and included.

There is an opportunity for the City to deepen a sense of welcome and belonging by improving access, increasing culturally-safe spaces and programs, and building trust.

Actions

1.3.1 Explore and implement options for subsidized recreation passes specifically for Indigenous residents. Promotion should be done through Indigenous-serving organizations. Consider self-identification for facility access passes, eliminating the barrier of acquiring status cards for some Indigenous residents.

1.3.2 Hire Indigenous staff, particularly in leadership positions, to lead programs and participate in planning and decision-making.



FOCUS AREA 2

2.0 Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

2.1 Context

The City of New Westminster is a richly diverse community, home to people of different ages, genders, abilities, ethnicities, and cultures. Residents also are diverse in their income, housing, and well-being.

Access to parks and recreation is not equitable across these different groups. Equity-deserving communities face participation barriers due to a variety of intersecting factors that range from physical barriers to socio-economic inequities. These groups are often under-represented in positions of power and decision-making due to systemic barriers and, as a result, they are under-recognized in parks and recreation spaces, services, and programs.

Equity is the fair distribution of opportunities, power, and resources to meet the needs of all people, regardless of age, ability, gender, income, education level, culture, or background. This means providing support based on an individual's level of need, instead of providing everyone the same amount of support.



Informed by input shared by equity-deserving groups for the **Parks, People, and Play** planning process, examples of barriers faced by these groups include:

- **Indigenous Peoples –** As the original stewards of these lands, Indigenous Peoples face barriers rooted in colonial planning practices that have historically erased Indigenous presence. See Focus Area 1 Reconciliation for more details.
- **Individuals who Identify as Girls and Women –** Socioeconomic disparities and systemic barriers include the de-prioritization of girls and women in recreation programming and scheduling, as compared to similar activities for boys and men.
- **Newcomers –** Vulnerabilities related to legal status (e.g., permanent resident, refugee, temporary resident, undocumented immigrant) and potential language barriers create obstacles to recreation and civic participation.
- **Older Adults –** Physical, social, and psychological barriers can result in age-unfriendliness in parks and recreation, preventing many older adults from participating fully in civic life.
- **People Living with Disabilities –** People living with physical disabilities and/or neurodiversity often encounter significant physical, sensory, or societal barriers to accessing parks and recreation. These range from inaccessible built environments (e.g., public washrooms) to overt discrimination.
- **People Living with Socioeconomic Disparities –** Economic insecurity impacts children, youth, families, and others whose household spending must prioritize food, rent, and utilities over sport and recreation. The experience of economic insecurity encompasses people living in deep poverty, as well as individuals and families who are housed and employed but have low incomes, work long or inconsistent hours, and/or must choose between care work and paid work.
- **People Living without Housing –** Many people living without housing experience mental health and addiction issues, and face barriers to accessing essential services that uphold their human right to access health, hygiene, and sanitation. In New Westminster, people with lived experience in houselessness have shared that they often feel unsafe in public spaces, have difficulty accessing public toilets, and sometimes feel judged when using facilities and services.
- **Racialized People –** 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 range from a lack of diversity among staff and leadership, to a sense of exclusion when services are not culturally or linguistically accessible, or when programming fails to reflect the cultural practices of the diverse communities being served.
- **Youth –** Young people, especially those with intersecting equity-deserving experiences, need safe and welcoming spaces to develop positive social relationships and support healthy emotional and social growth.
- **Two-Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ People –** The stigma and societal discrimination faced by Two-Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ people create barriers to recreation and civic participation. An example is the absence of representation in public spaces that otherwise contain only binary and hetero-normative references and options.
- **Other equity-deserving groups encompass people living with mental illness, including addictions involving substance-related harms.**

Intersectionality – Many equity-deserving people hold multiple identities listed above. The City recognizes that barriers are often compounded when these identities intersect. Intersectionality is the framework used to understand how these overlapping identities create unique experiences of exclusion or belonging.

Other barriers that may affect multiple groups include challenges with technological and/or bureaucratic literacy, colonial practices, the absence of trauma-informed systems and services, and transportation obstacles (e.g., rush hour traffic congestion, insufficient public transit, and inadequate parking).

The City of New Westminster works toward removing these barriers to parks and recreation through tailored programs and services, strategic partnerships, and responsive physical infrastructure.

Further knowledge and input from equity-deserving people and the broader community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.



2.2 Goal

Advance equity, inclusion, and accessibility by removing barriers, enhancing opportunities, and supporting community well-being.



2.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access.

Since all people are experts in their own lived experiences, the City can engage with equity-deserving groups to better understand the nature of barriers and needs for equitable access in New Westminster.

Drawing on this knowledge and applying an equity lens to parks and recreation help to fulfill the City's legislated duties for human rights and accessibility; deepen responsiveness to more culturally-competent services, and build trust and community relationships in a way that further enables civic participation. An equity lens can also increase the inclusiveness of the City's organizational culture, which in turn can support more equitable community access to parks and recreation.

Actions

2.1.1 Integrate equity as a guiding principle in all policy and plans. These should be developed in early meaningful partnership with communities most impacted by systemic inequities.

2.1.2 Apply an equity lens to program design and service delivery in collaboration with equity-seeking groups.

2.1.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of and opportunities to expand access to the Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program.

2.1.4 Educate and empower staff with the necessary skills to support accessibility (e.g., support for neuro-diverse individuals and people with physical disabilities), as well as culturally sensitive and trauma-informed practices.

2.1.5 Apply universal design guidelines and engage people with lived experience in all planning and design. Build new and renewed facilities to meet or exceed the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program.

2.1.6 Develop and renew outdoor play spaces to include diverse, accessible, and high-quality recreational opportunities for all ages.

2.1.7 Conduct site-specific barrier audits (with priority given to outdoor spaces) and implement strategies to meet the access needs of all user groups, particularly seniors and people with disabilities.

2.1.8 Clearly communicate accessibility information (e.g., plain language, descriptive images, Braille, and universally recognized symbols) across all platforms (e.g., online, guides, facilities and parks).

2.1.9 Recruit, retain, and empower staff, volunteers, and leadership to build a workforce and leadership that reflect the diverse community that parks and recreation serves.



Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.

The City of New Westminster embraces ways to build on its existing efforts and successes in improving inclusivity and well-being through its parks and recreation programs, services, and spaces. At the time this Plan was written, examples of city-wide inclusivity programs, services, and other initiatives include: dedicated and inclusive programming (e.g., girls-only ball hockey, meal meet-ups, sensory-friendly swims, cultural events, Pride programming, dedicated youth spaces and programs); addressing logistical barriers (e.g., provision of low-cost child minding); connecting people to resources and supports through partnerships (e.g., with newcomer settlement organizations, senior government crises responses); capacity building through leadership development for seniors and youth; direct cost reductions (e.g., program discounts, subsidized memberships); dignified access to hygiene (e.g., free shower pilot program); accessible spaces and facilities, and continuous accessibility audits and improvements.

Actions

2.2.1 Continue to support and participate in the City's Crisis Response Pilot Project to proactively address the challenges of homelessness, mental health, and substance use with compassion.

2.2.2 Proactively plan for amenities and programming for youth, engage youth in planning, and incorporate youth input in the design process.

2.2.3 In partnership with community groups, continue to leverage facilities and programs that strengthen community resilience (e.g., emergency preparedness, food security, and social cohesion).

2.2.4 Continue to maintain a balance in the variety of outdoor spaces and amenities to satisfy diverse interests (e.g., structured, formal, and informal play/sport, nature-based recreation).



FOCUS AREA 3

3.0 Low Carbon Resilience

3.1 Context

The climate emergency demands bold action, and the City of New Westminster has committed to integrating climate impacts into all City decisions. The City's "Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action" includes ambitious targets, specifically aiming for a transition to a zero-carbon future (in the corporate sector and community buildings), shifting to sustainable mobility, and enhancing the livability of the public realm through expansion of the urban forest and reallocation of vehicle street space for community use.

The City of New Westminster's Parks and Recreation Department has an important role to play in both the mitigation of and adaptation to a changing climate. Mitigation involves reducing the root causes of climate change (i.e., corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions). Adaptation involves preparing for the impacts that are already occurring (i.e., proactively preparing the City's assets and programs for heatwaves, intense storms, and other impacts). Low carbon resilience (LCR) is a strategy that combines both approaches.

Low Carbon Resilience is a practical approach to climate action that involves making decisions and plans which simultaneously reduce carbon pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change. For example, the urban forest captures carbon (mitigation) while providing essential cooling shade during heat waves (adaptation).

The Parks and Recreation Department has an opportunity to build on successes and continue demonstrating 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.

One of the pressures associated with low carbon resilience is Parks and Recreation's core mandate of protecting and expanding 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 Provincial housing mandates. Overcoming this core challenge requires innovative strategies focused on acquiring new lands, expanding existing parks and natural areas, and creatively integrating natural assets equitably throughout the community.

Climate action and resilience are a priority for residents, who value and would like to see more nature in the city, social supports related to climate change, and low-carbon buildings and transportation choices.

Further knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard**.** Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

3.2 Goal

Integrate low carbon resilience into design, planning, operations, and support responses to climate emergencies.

3.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 3.1: Integrate mitigation in planning, design, and operations.

Climate change mitigation for parks and recreation involves prioritizing low-carbon operations and infrastructure including green buildings (i.e., zero carbon buildings such as the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre), a clean fleet (i.e., transitioning departmental vehicles and maintenance equipment to electric), and energy conservation and efficiency in infrastructure and operations (i.e., implementing energy efficiency upgrades, sustainable waste management, renewable energy production).

Actions

3.1.1 Integrate climate mitigation (e.g., alternative energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon materials) and climate adaptation (e.g., resilient landscaping, sustainable products, recycling systems) into all new and renewed facilities, parks, and green spaces.

3.1.2 Implement construction standards and practices that reduce embodied carbon and incorporate nature-based solutions (e.g., rain gardens, permeable surfaces, creek daylighting) to enhance site resilience.

3.1.3 Update maintenance and operations practices for facilities and parks to reduce carbon emissions and resource consumption (e.g., use electric equipment, reduce potable water use, implement sustainable materials and local product sourcing).







Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.

Protecting and enhance natural assets is a core part of low-carbon resilience. It includes carbon sequestration, which entails protecting and expanding the urban forest, restoring foreshore areas, and integrating green infrastructure into the urban fabric. It also involves implementing specialized plans and programs to restore native ecosystems and support biodiversity, as well as site-specific projects that restore ecological functions through planning efforts.

Actions

3.2.1 Establish a Natural Asset Management Plan (NAMP) to inventory, value, protect, and enhance all natural assets.

3.2.2 Actively implement the goals and targets of the Biodiversity Strategy to enhance local ecosystem health.

3.2.3 Implement the Urban Forest Management Strategy to ensure a robust city-wide tree canopy cover for climate resilience and ecosystem services.

Objective 3.3: Support responses to climate emergencies.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change includes mitigating extreme weather by designing parks with drought-tolerant and climate-adapted species, alleviating the urban heat island effect, and providing physical and social supports to residents. It also involves promoting public participation in stewardship and environmental programming.

Actions

3.3.1 Establish a monitoring program for climate change impacts on natural assets and residents, and use this data to inform and adapt planning, design, and operational procedures accordingly.

3.3.2 Upgrade outdoor spaces (parks and plazas) to serve as accessible and comfortable refuges during extreme weather, prioritizing the needs of equity-deserving groups and vulnerable populations (e.g., enhanced shade, reliable drinking water, misting stations).



FOCUS AREA 4

4.0 Parks and Open Spaces

4.1 Context

New Westminster residents value their existing parks and open spaces, and would like to see more to support the city's growing population. Many participants in the **People, Parks, and Play** process emphasized that, as the city densifies, the existing parkland must be preserved and expanded to provide recreation opportunities for all.

Overall, the city has a wide range of park types, with all areas of the city having some access to parks. The large city parks are important destinations for many activities, with waterfront parks being particularly valued.

At the same time, multiple residential areas do not have short walking access to active parks, with the west district of the city being particularly low in the supply and proximity of parks and open spaces.

Active Parks are the city's primary spaces for playgrounds, sports, and gathering. This category focuses on recreational and social needs and includes city, community, and neighbourhood parks, and also includes some active green spaces on School District 40 sites.

All Parkland refers to the entire park system and its diverse functions. It includes all seven parkland classifications: city, community, neighbourhood, linear, urban, green space/nature park, and active green spaces on public school sites.

Parkland Classification

New Westminster has a wide range of park types that serve different needs. From large parks filled with amenities to small spaces with a few benches and trees, the city's parks support many activities such as organized sports, casual recreation, and connecting with nature.

Parks and open spaces classification provides an understanding of the various roles of parkland, assisting in establishing parkland needs and levels of service. The parkland classification in **People, Parks, and Play** is similar to the previous Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (2008), however four new park types have been added to respond to the city's evolving context and expanded role of parkland in the community.

Figure 4.1 outlines the park classifications and the parks that fall within each category, as well as their size and service focus. Some parks have the potential to fall within more than one park classification, in which case the dominant role of the park determines its classification.

Figure 4.1: Parkland Classification and Characteristics Overview

See **Appendix 2** Parkland Classification Table for comprehensive classification table.

Park Classification	City Park
Size	Varying sizes, typically at least 1 ha
Service Focus	Destinations that serve residents from the entire city and regional visitors Is ideally adjacent or connected to bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops Park attractions include natural features and/or major built facilities

Park Classification	Community Park
Size	Typically at least 1 ha
Service Focus	Serves residents within a 10-minute walk (i.e., 660 m) Is ideally within a 5-minute walk of bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops

Park Classification	Neighbourhood Park
Size	Preferably more than 0.4 ha, with average size of 0.6 ha
Service Focus	Serves residents within a 10-minute walk and preferably a 5-minute walk

Park Classification	Green Space/ Nature Park
Size	Wide range of sizes
Service Focus	Primarily serves to protect undeveloped grounds and natural biodiversity while providing residents with opportunities for quiet connection to nature and visual relief within the urban environment

Park Classification	Linear Park
Size	Wide range of sizes
Service Focus	Primarily serves to provide continuous off-road corridors and shoreline walkways that connect residents to key destinations, transit, and nature while supporting city-wide active transportation

Park Classification	Urban Park
Size	Small urban spaces, current range: 0.01 – 1.09 ha Average current size: 0.11 ha
Service Focus	Serves to provide immediate neighbours in dense areas with accessible green spaces by creatively utilizing street rights-of-way, parklets, and plazas where traditional parkland is limited

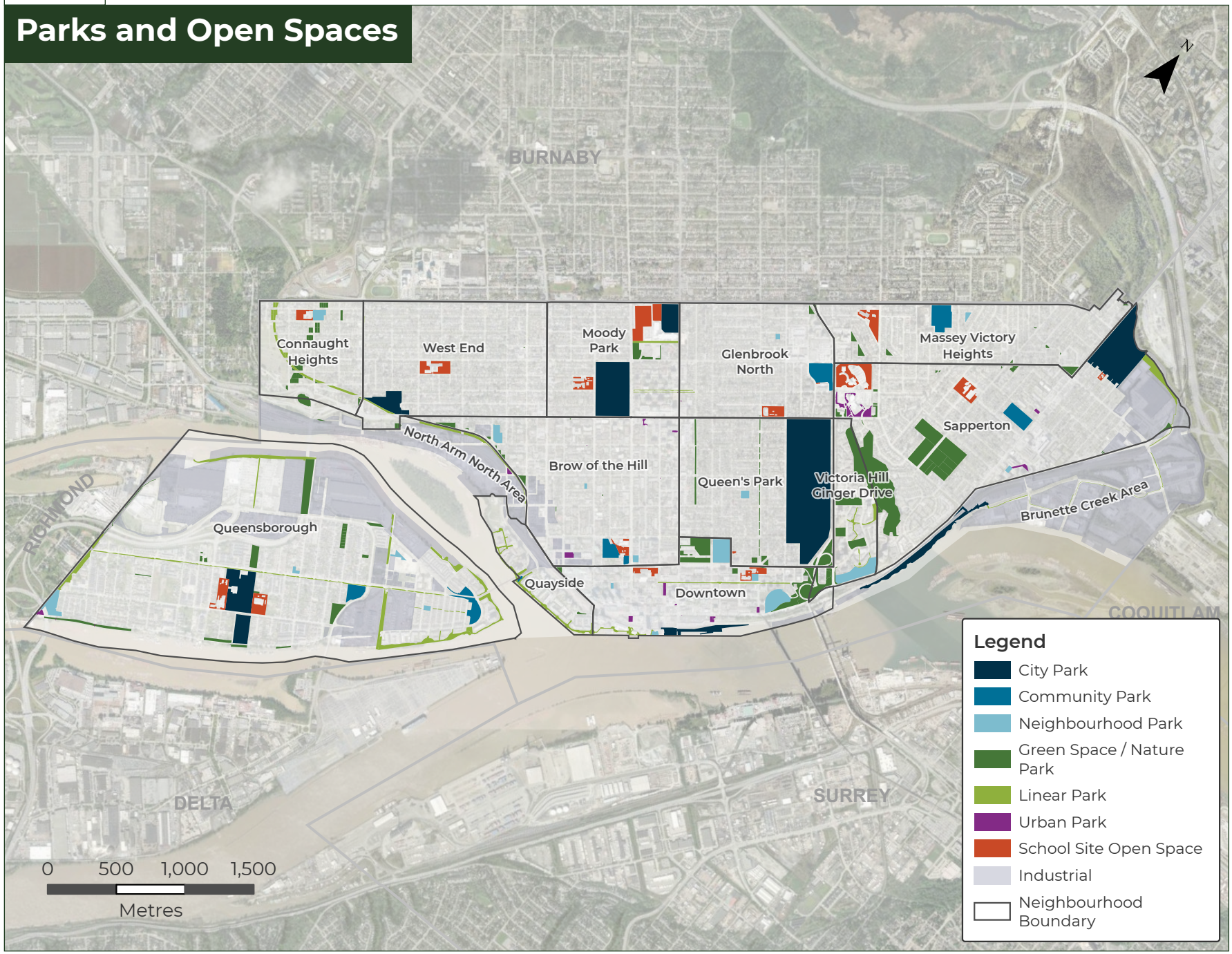
Park Classification	School Site Open Space
Size	Range of sizes
Service Focus	Serves to provide essential green space for students during the day while offering the broader community accessible recreation and social space during non-school hours

Map 4.1 presents parks and open spaces in New Westminster by classification. Industrial lands are indicated on the map as these have a lower need and less potential for future parkland.



Map 4.1

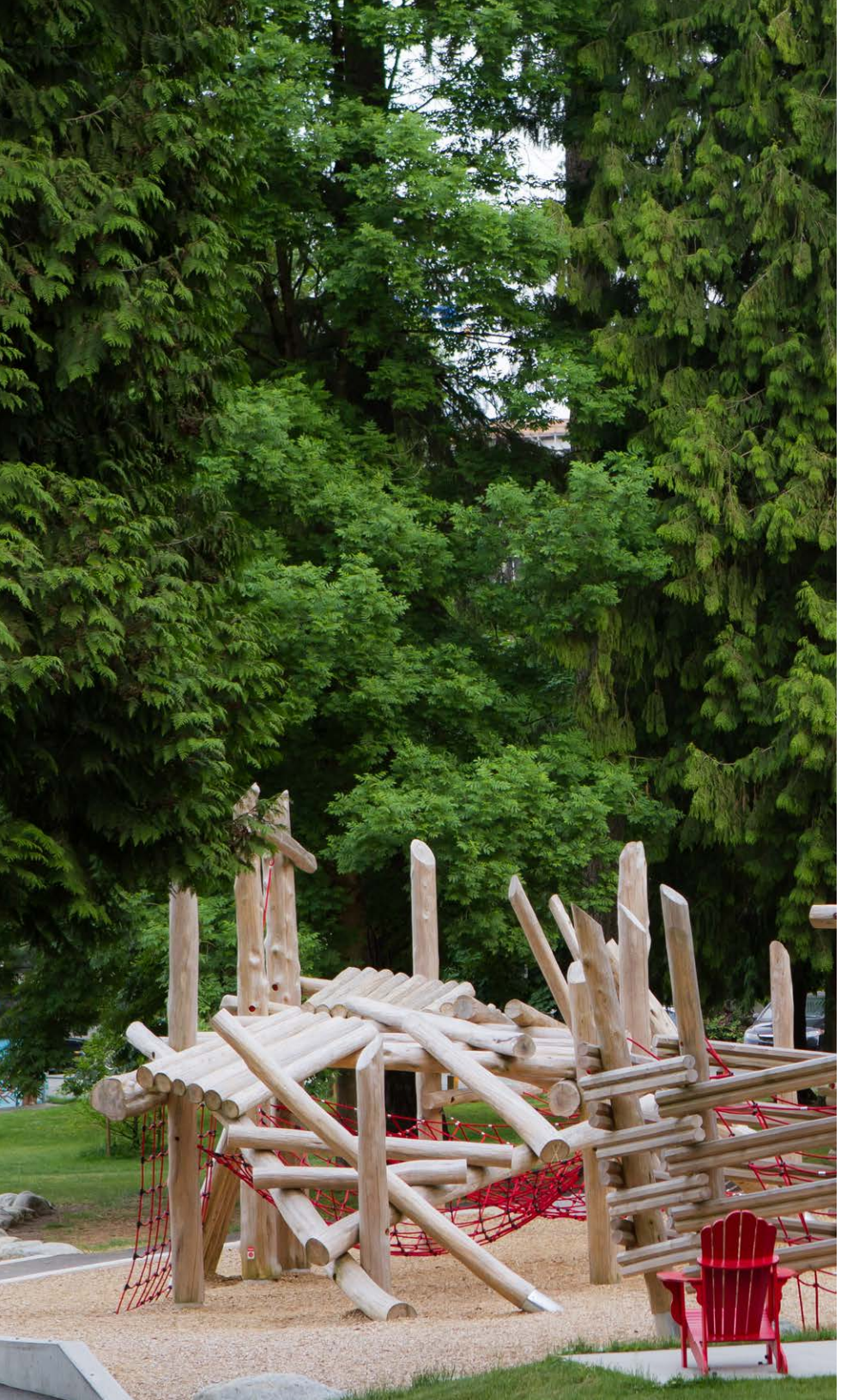
Parks and Open Spaces



Not all land functioning as park is owned by the City. Some sites are leased or secured through statutory rights-of way and operated by the City, while others are owned by the Province and remain inaccessible to the public (e.g., Poplar Island); inaccessible lands are not included in the city's parkland inventory.

Green space portions of school sites contribute to the city's broader park network, though they are outside of the City's control. There are significant opportunities for the City and School District 40 to collaborate on school and park site enhancements that maximize the use of limited footprints for the benefit of both students and the general community. This is particularly important in the context of **urban schools that are multi-storey and do not have additional land to accommodate increasing student populations.**





Parkland Supply

New Westminster currently has 281 parks and open spaces covering over 175 hectares. Figure 4.2 presents parks and open space supply based on classification. It also illustrates the parkland supply as measured by hectares (ha) per 1,000 population.

Figure 4.2: Parks and Open Space Supply

Classifications	Number of Sites	Area (ha)	Supply (ha/1,000 population)*
City Park	10	69.16	0.76
Community Park	7	11.61	0.13
Neighbourhood Park	18	11.27	0.12
Green Space / Nature Park*	134	45.26	0.50
Linear Park*	71	19.83	0.22
Urban Park	24	2.54	0.03
School Site Open Space	17	16.13	0.18
Total (City and Non-City Owned)	**281**	**175.8**	**1.94**

Notes: *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 a passive, publicly accessible park designed for low-impact activities that honour its history as a designated cemetery.

4.2 Analysis

Proximity Analysis

As the population is increasing and more people are living in high-density housing, it becomes more important for residents to have a park close to their home. Ideally, all residential areas should be within a five-minute walk of an active park.

The proximity of parkland to residents is measured by the distance people can walk to reach a park. The City uses 330 metres to calculate a five-minute walk, which is a more inclusive measure than previous trends and some jurisdictions, as it accounts for different abilities and the steep terrain of New Westminster. These walking distances are based on the network of pathways, trails, and sidewalks within public rights-of-way.

Map 4.2 presents the five- and ten-minute walking distances to active parks. **In this analysis, School District 40 school sites are included with city, community, and neighbourhood parks because their active amenities—such as playgrounds and sports courts—function as community hubs available for public use outside of school hours.** Even with the inclusion of these school sites, the analysis shows significant gaps in many neighbourhoods where the five-minute walking target is not met.

Further knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

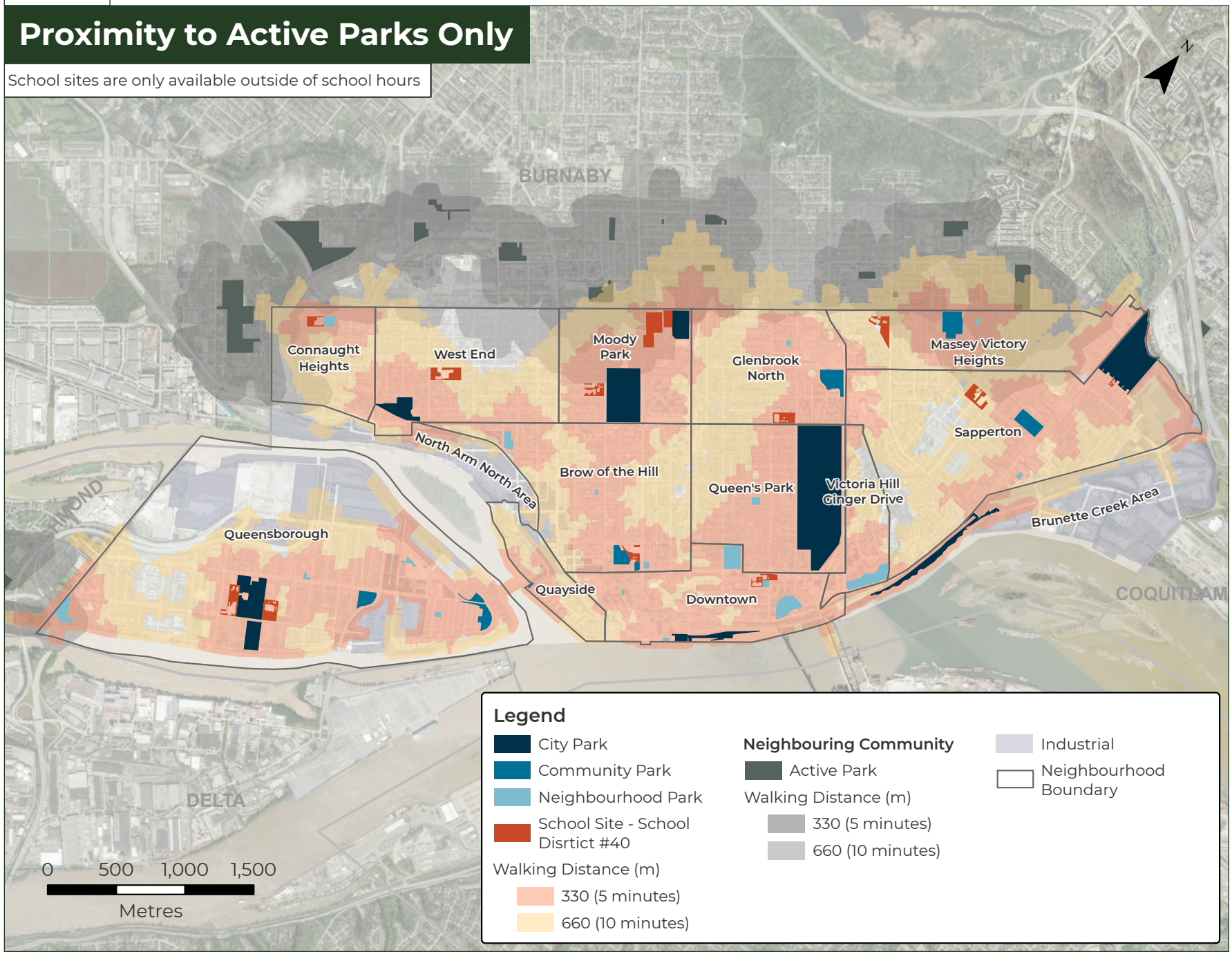
Map 4.3 presents five- and ten-minute walking distances to **all parks and open spaces**, showing that almost all residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park or school, and most are within a five-minute walk. A challenge is that some of these parks are very small with few or no amenities. This means that residents of Brow of the Hill and Connaught Heights, for example, have limited access to large parks.



Map 4.2

Proximity to Active Parks Only

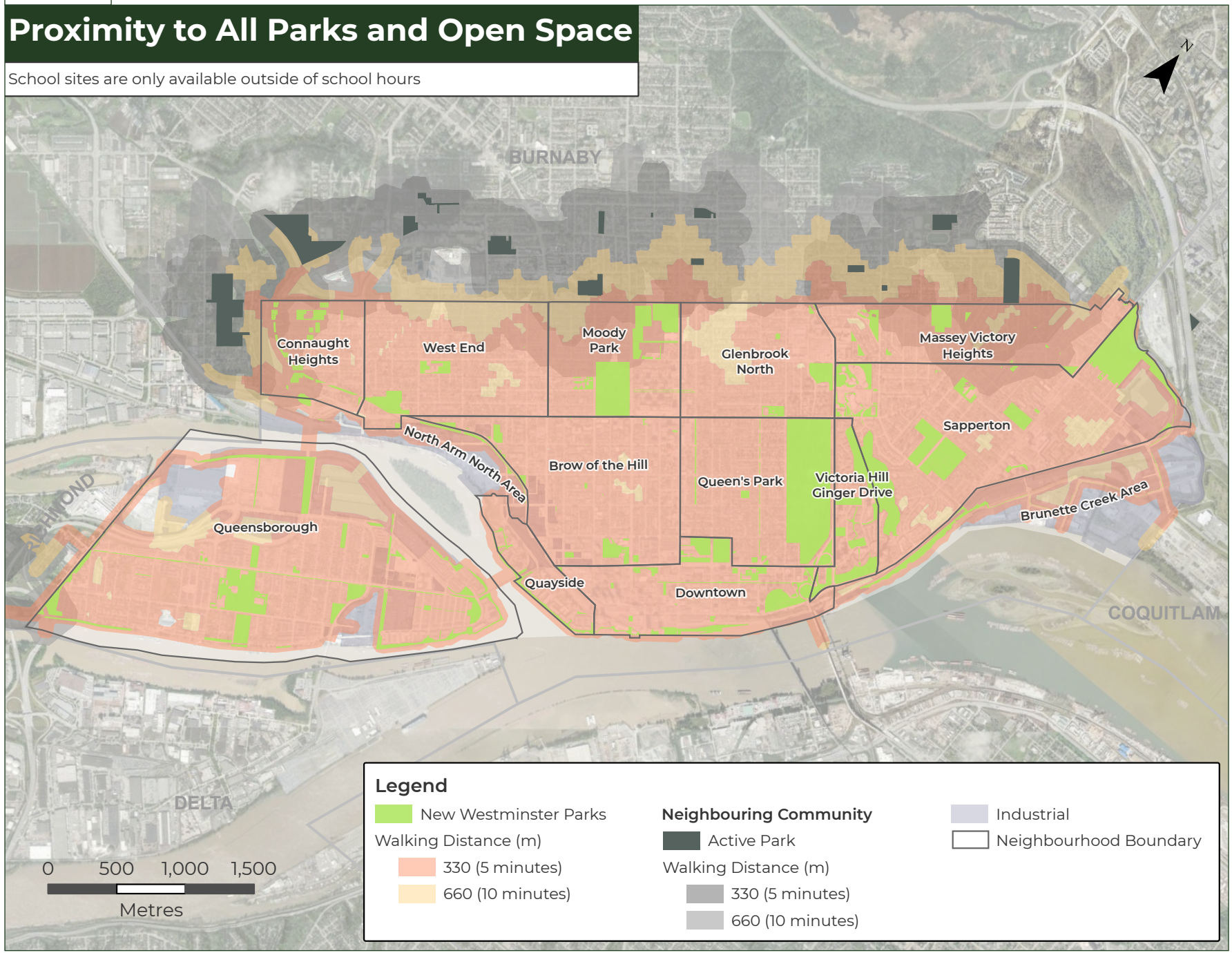
School sites are only available outside of school hours



Map 4.3

Proximity to All Parks and Open Space

School sites are only available outside of school hours



Population-Based Parkland Supply Analysis

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

Parkland supply standards are essential for ensuring that a full range of park types are accessible to all residents. By measuring the supply over time and comparing it with similar communities, the City can benchmark its progress and ensure New Westminster remains a liveable city. These metrics also provide a consistent and transparent framework for the development process, helping to accurately calculate park Development Cost Charges (DCCs) so that the park system grows in tandem with the city's population.

Municipalities like New Westminster that are mostly built out face significant challenges due to limited land availability and the cost of remaining lands. There is a strategic shift towards quality over quantity. This evolution involves prioritizing non-traditional acquisition methods and increasing the density and diversity of activities accommodated within parks. Reflecting current Canadian trends, the City is navigating resourcing challenges and adopting new performance metrics, such as walking distance proximity, to ensure equitable access. Rather than relying solely on traditional land purchases, the City is securing new public spaces through innovative means, including park dedication via development, privately owned public spaces (POPS), the reallocation of road and surplus land, residential lot consolidation, long-term statutory leases of underutilized lands, and the creation of air space parcels for rooftop parks.

New Westminster's parkland supply has not kept pace with population growth over the last 17 years, due largely to a rapidly expanding population within a fixed land base. In 2007, there were **2.04 ha** of active parks (i.e., city, community, and neighbourhood parks) for every 1,000 residents. By 2024, this ratio had declined by 50% to **1.01 ha** for every 1,000 residents. Even when including active school sites, the current ratio is at **1.19 ha** per 1,000 population. This decline in service levels underscores the immediate need to "catch up" in underserved areas while establishing new, creative strategies to ensure the system can "keep up" with future densification.

Unless additional parkland is acquired, the ratio of total parkland supply (all six city classifications) is projected to decrease from 1.94 ha per 1,000 residents in 2024 to 1.51 ha per 1,000 residents by 2034. Similarly, the subset of city active parks is expected to decrease from **1.01 ha** in 2024 to **0.79 ha** by 2034. In 2024, the population-based parkland supply was much higher in other comparable communities, averaging **3.62 ha** per 1,000 residents.

Trends and projections for population-based parkland supply by park classification and the analysis for New Westminster and comparable municipalities are contained in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

Parkland Strategy: A Dual-Target Approach

Parkland needs are set out to meet two objectives: catching up with current needs for parkland access; and keeping up with future parkland needs related to population growth.

The Parks and Recreation Department proposes two primary metrics to ensure that parks are equitably distributed and remain in adequate supply as the city grows. These dual targets focus on **proximity** (how close residents live to an active park) and **population** (parkland hectares per 1,000 residents).

Target 1: Proximity Target (Catching Up) – The primary goal for bridging existing gaps is to ensure every resident lives within a **five-minute walk** of an active park. Currently, to meet this proximity target for underserved areas, the City requires **13.2 hectares** of new parkland.

Map 4.4 illustrates the gaps where these parks will be needed. This target prioritizes **where parks are located** to ensure equitable access regardless of district. **Figure 4.3** indicates the amount of land required to achieve this goal based on the following park sizes.

- **Recommended Size:** A minimum of 0.6 ha per site (the city's current neighbourhood park average).
- **Total Proximity Need:** 22 new park sites totaling 13.2 hectares (Figure 4.3 and Map 4.4).

Figure 4.3: Required Park Sites and Land Area

District	Park Sites Needed (#)	Total Hectares
West	9	5.4 ha
East	8	4.8 ha
Downtown	2	1.2 ha
Queensborough	3	1.8 ha
Total	**22**	**13.2 ha**

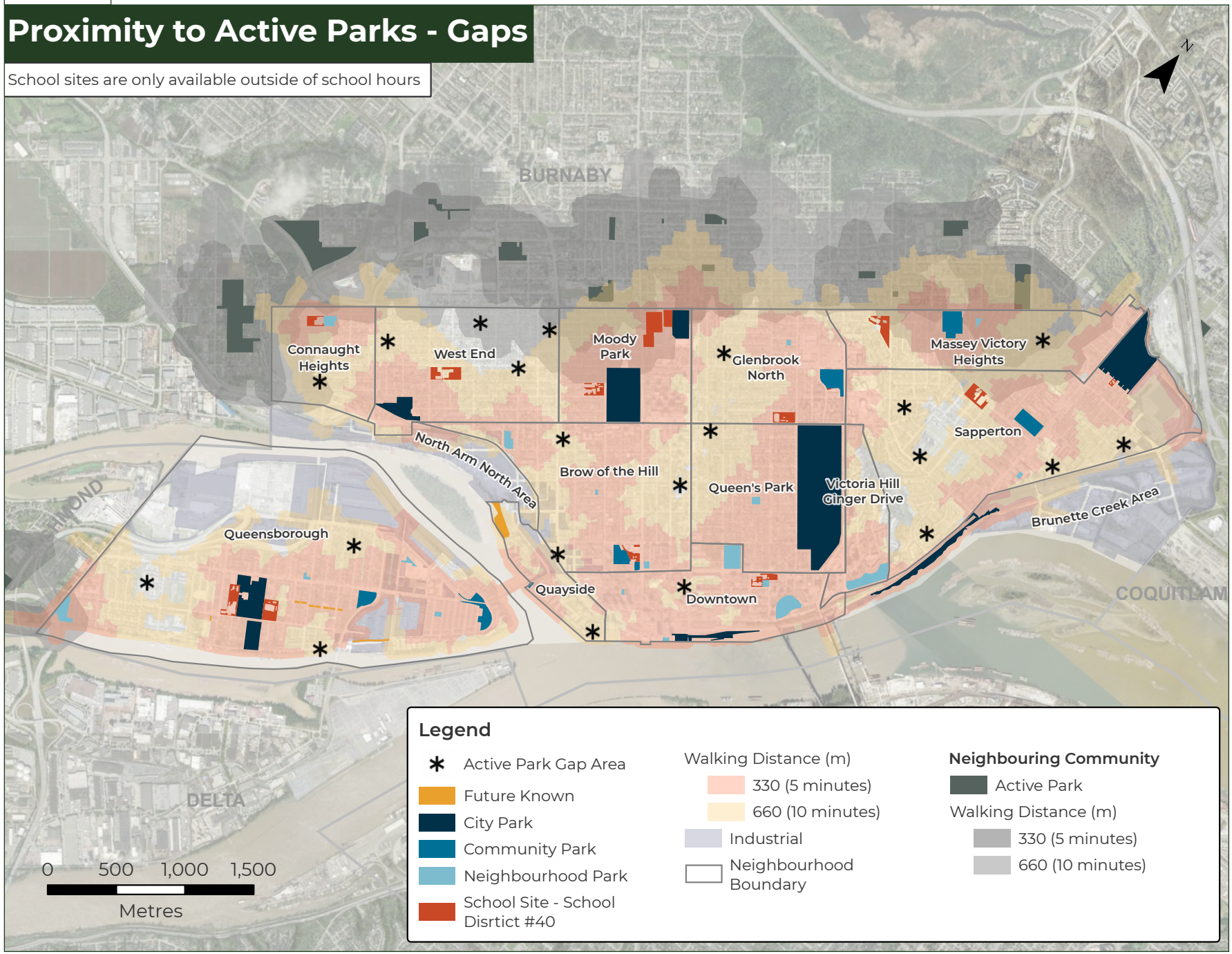
Target 2: Population Target (Keeping Up) – The primary goal is to maintain a city-wide service level of 1 ha/1,000 population of active parkland. Based on 2034 population projections, this requires a minimum of **12.3 hectares** of additional active parkland, of which 1.55 hectares has already been acquired for Muni Evers Park ("Future Known" on **Map 4.4**).

Based on the analysis, the Parks and Recreation Department anticipates the need for 25.5 total hectares of new active parkland, of which 1.55 hectares has been acquired. This comprehensive target is divided into two strategic streams, the proximity target (13.2 hectares) and the population-based target (10.75 additional hectares). While the proximity target addresses immediate needs, the pace at which the population-based target is achieved will be inherently scalable—aligning with the actual rate of development and population growth through 2034 and beyond.

Map 4.4

Proximity to Active Parks - Gaps

School sites are only available outside of school hours



The City's parkland supply is not distributed equitably. Four City districts (east, west, downtown, and Queensborough) are used to compare parkland distribution because population projections over the next 10 years are available for these geographic areas rather than by neighbourhood. Figure 4.4 and **Figure 4.5** illustrate existing and projected population-based parkland supply within the city's four districts for active parkland and all parkland, indicating their relationship to the City's current supply for each. **Map 4.5 and Map 4.6** illustrate the neighbourhoods in the districts and the relative parkland supply of the districts.

Figure 4.4: Population-based Active Parkland by Distribution: By District

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

Figure 4.4 and **Figure 4.5** reveal that downtown and the west (west of Sixth Street) have the greatest deficiencies in active and all parkland supply, even with future known parks included for 2034 (Muni Evers will be an active park downtown). Their supply of active parkland is well below the overall city-wide supply of **1.0 ha per 1,000 residents and all parkland supply of 2.0 ha per 1,000 residents**, resulting in an inequitable distribution of parkland.

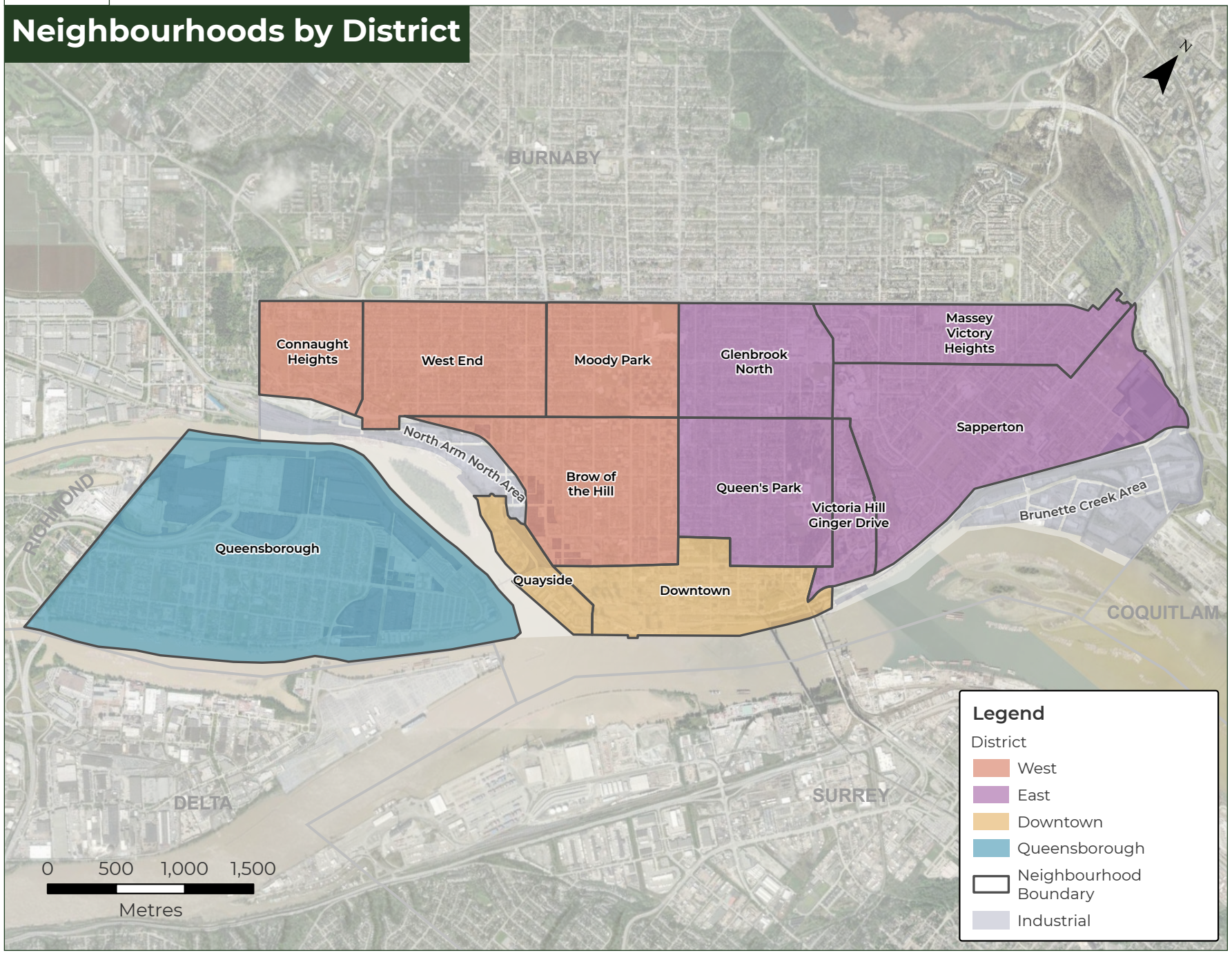
Figure 4.5: Population-based All Parkland by Distribution: By District

District	2024 All Parks (ha/1,000)	2034 All Parks (Projected)	Status vs. City's Current 2.0 ha / 1,000
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

While the City explored a district-based target of 1.0 ha / 1,000 residents of active parkland, this was determined to be unrealistic and out of reach due to current land use patterns and acquisition costs. Instead, the City has strategically adopted the dual-target approach to ensure active parkland is distributed equitably and adequately along with growth.

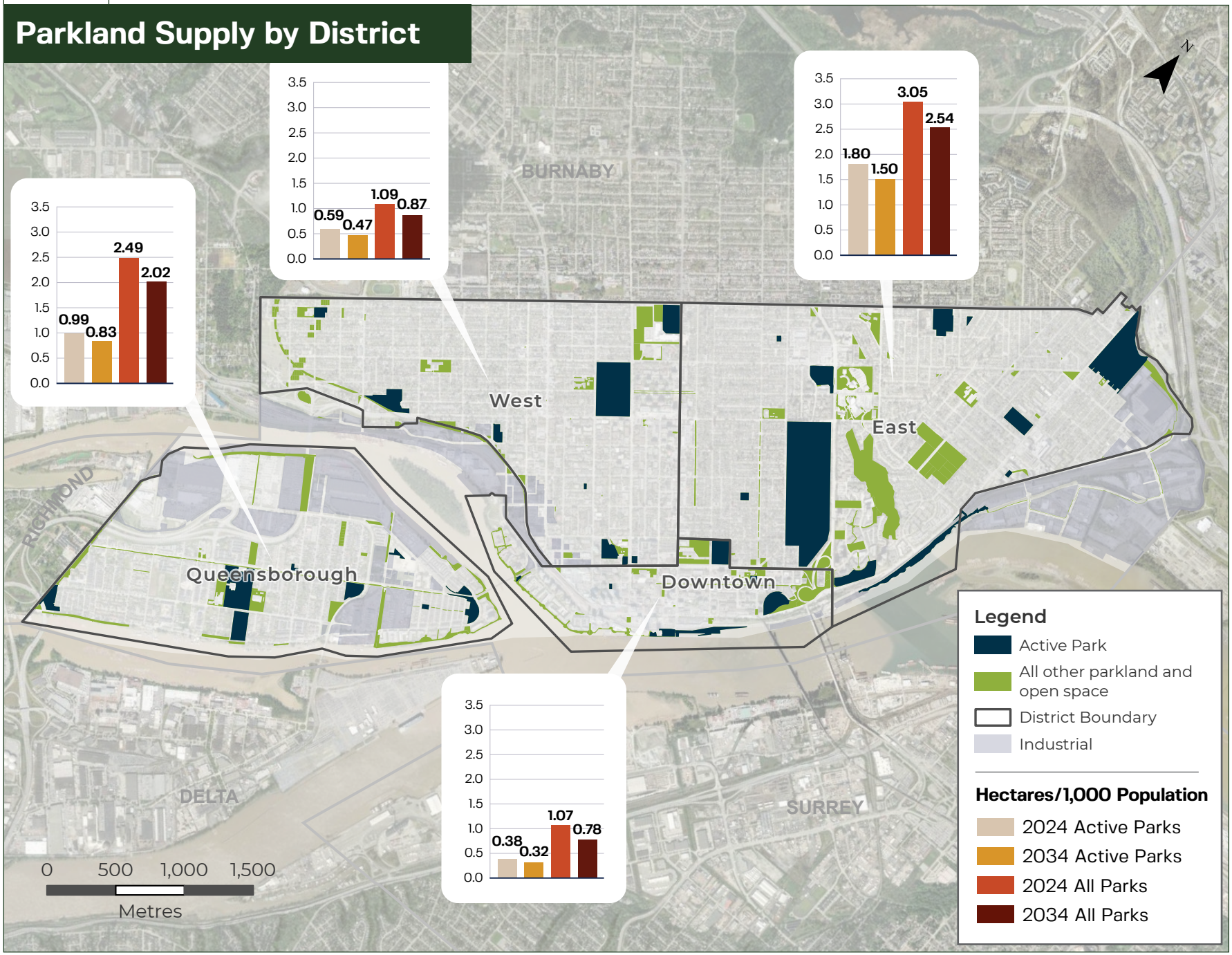
Map 4.5

Neighbourhoods by District



Map 4.6

Parkland Supply by District



Parkland Percentage of Total City Land Area

Area-based analysis is another way to measure parkland supply, considering the proportion of the entire city occupied by parks and open spaces. 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 4.6 presents the portion of the city occupied by parks and open spaces, which is 11.3% of the total land area. **The majority of this area (i.e., 4.4% of the city) consists of large city parks**, while urban parks and linear parks occupy a very small fraction (i.e., less than 1%).

While this metric provides a useful high-level snapshot of the city's park footprint, **it does not account for the distribution or proximity of parkland.** A high city-wide percentage does not mean that residents in every neighbourhood have equitable or easy access to a park.

For the city to remain livable as it grows, this percentage must increase through strategic acquisitions, expansion of partnerships, and the conversion of non-parkland.

Figure 4.6: Percentage of Total City Land Area in Parkland Inventory

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	16.13	1.0%
Total	**175.8**	**11.3%**

Population Growth Targets

Future population growth in New Westminster is enabled by the housing targets of Provincial Bill 44 Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, and Bill 47 Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act. This legislation allows multi-unit housing in all single-detached residential areas and enables high density growth within Transit-Oriented Areas, respectively. 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.

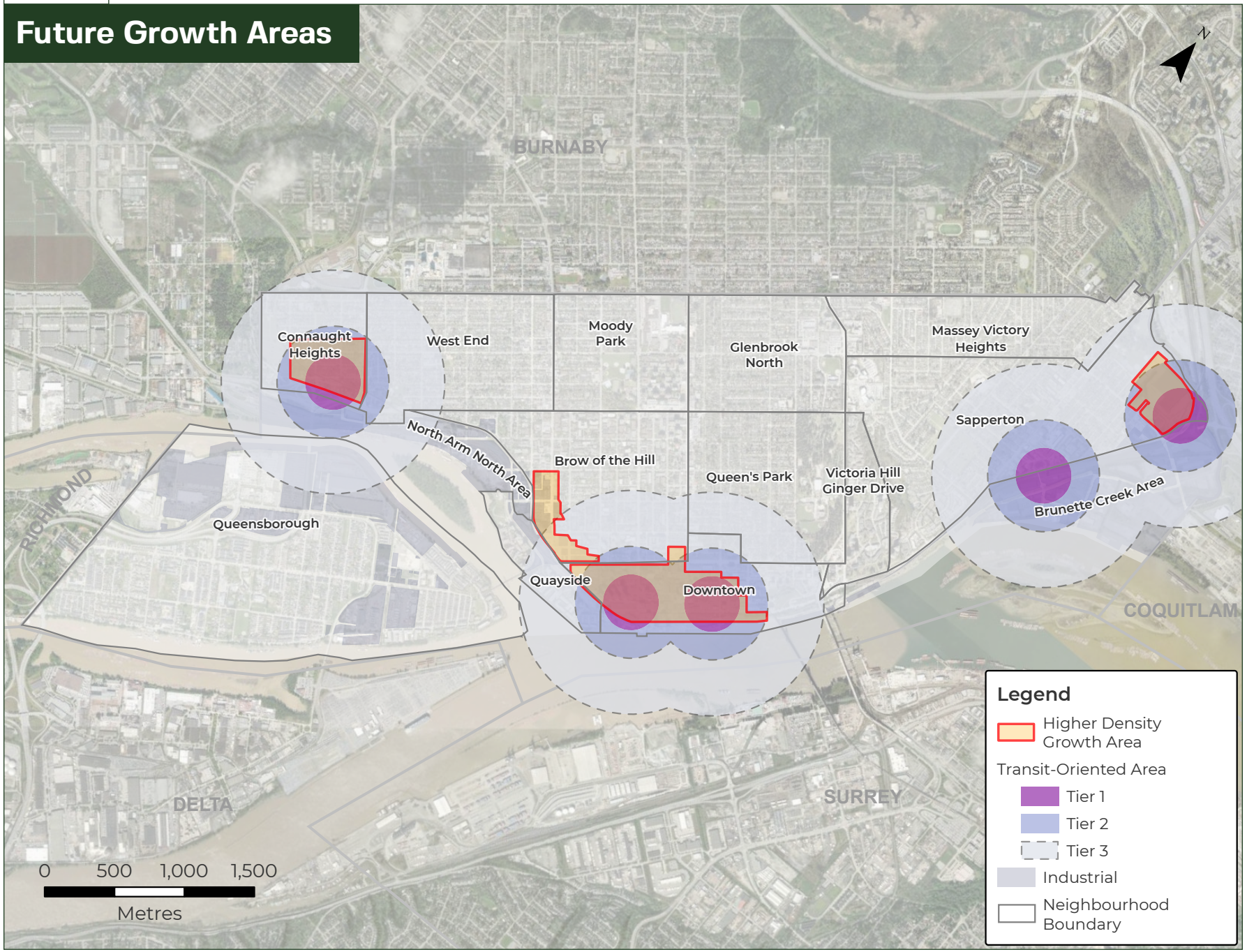
As densification increases, the role of public parks becomes even more vital. For residents in multi-unit developments with limited private space, **public parks function as their essential "outdoor living room."**

Map 4.7 presents the Bill 47 Transit-Oriented Areas and the higher density growth areas identified in the City's Official Community Plan.



Map 4.7

Future Growth Areas



Parkland Distribution Equity Analysis

Parks are essential to civic infrastructure, yet they do not serve every resident equally. An "equity first" approach recognizes that certain populations rely more heavily on public parks for health, social connection, and well-being benefits. 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: **Aboriginal identity** (i.e., over 5 percent of the population identifying as such); **low income** (i.e., over 20% of the population earning less than $40,000); **multi-unit housing** (i.e., over 80 percent of the housing being multi-unit); and seniors (i.e., over 20 percent of population being aged 65 or more). Newcomers were not added to the spatial analysis as they are mostly residing in Queensborough, which does not meet the other high-equity need criteria.

Map 4.8 reveals that 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. To effectively serve populations with high-equity needs, these spaces must prioritize barrier-free access and provide a range of amenities that support diverse physical, social, and cultural needs.



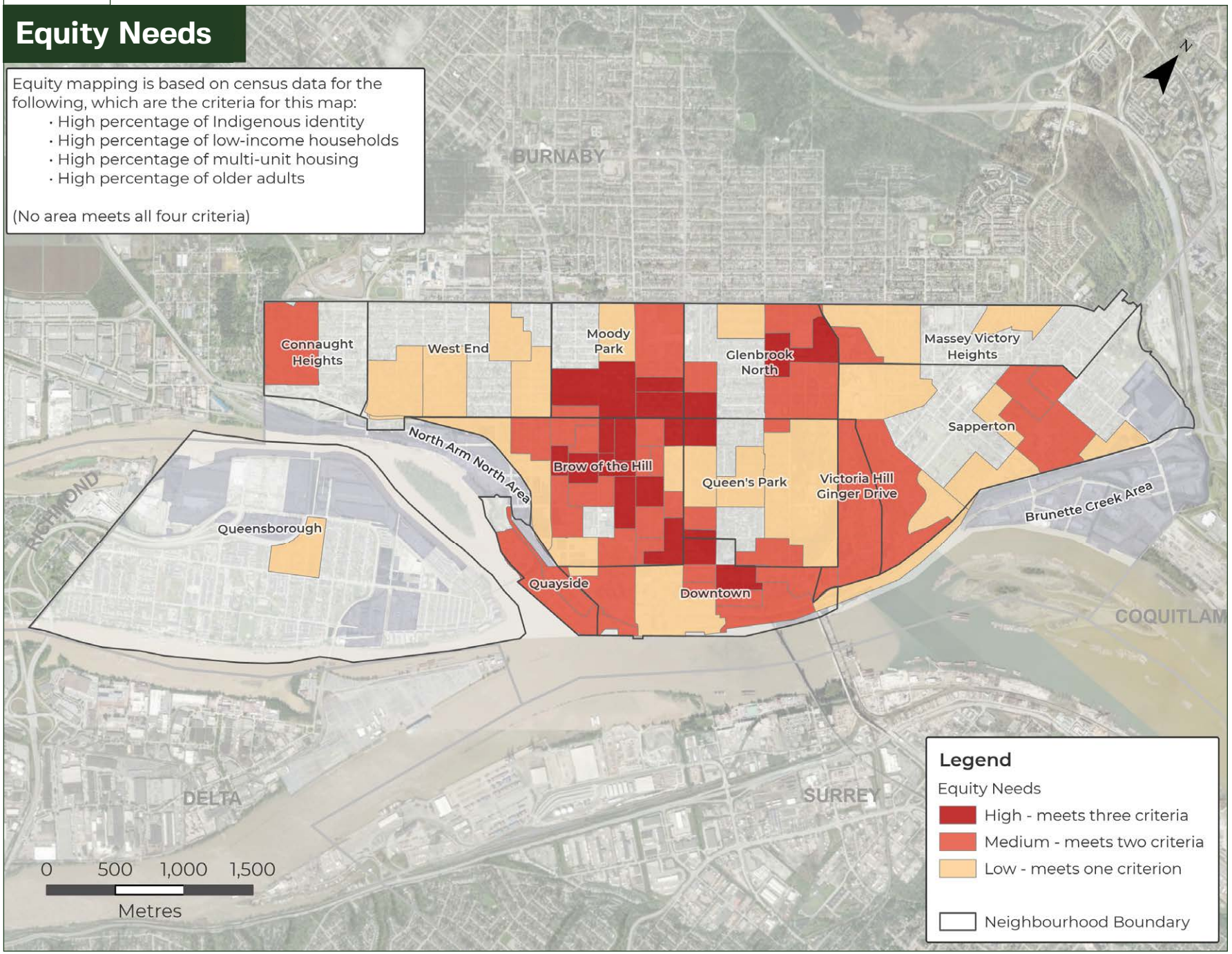
Map 4.8

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)



Parkland Ownership

Park ownership can affect the long-term security of parks and open spaces. The majority of New Westminster's park and open space network is owned by the City (**80%**), providing the highest level of stability and control over service levels. However, approximately **20%** of the network—including school sites, utility corridors, and provincial lands—relies on external partnerships and has varying degrees of public access. **Map 4.9** and **Figure 4.7** presents park ownership of New Westminster's parks and open space system.

Figure 4.7: Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces

Owner	Percent of Parks and Open Space Area	Area (ha)
City of New Westminster	80.3%	141.21
Education	9.2%	16.09
Private / Organization	3.4%	5.92
Province	2.3%	4.06
Utility	4.8%	8.52

Parkland Protections

To secure New Westminster's park system against increasing urban pressures, the City utilizes the Official Community Plan (OCP) as its primary protective framework, using land use designations to communicate and safeguard the long-term intent for these lands. While many existing designations allow for parks as a complementary use, a key consideration within this Plan is the **reclassification** of specific sites to primary park status to ensure they are recognized as permanent community assets. **Map 4.10** highlights the OCP land use designation for all city parkland.

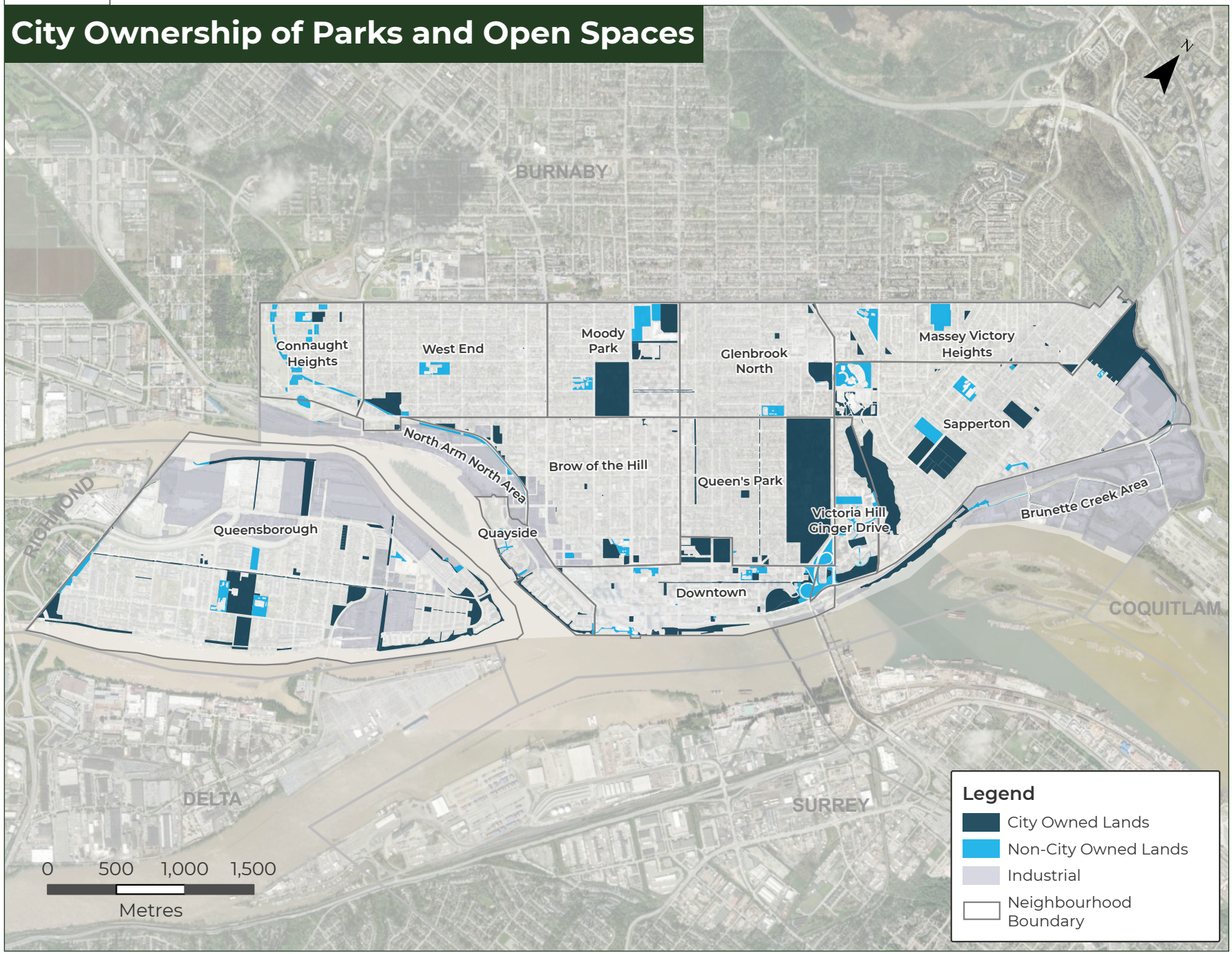
Beyond OCP designations, the City relies on varying **legal establishment mechanisms** that offer different tiers of security, ranging from standard municipal management to extraordinary protections:

- **Standard Protection:** These sites are owned and managed by the City for public use, or secured for public use through a statutory right-of-way, subject to standard municipal disposal regulations.
- **High Protection:** These sites are dedicated by plan or bylaw. Under the Community Charter, these require the approval of the electors to alter or dispose of.
- **Extraordinary Protection:** These sites carry rigorous legal safeguards—such as Provincial dedications, Crown grants, or community trusts. These "perpetual" protections ensure that the land remains parkland indefinitely, often requiring elector approval or court orders to alter.

Currently, **six park sites** have been identified as having these extraordinary establishment mechanisms and related disposition limitations (**Map 4.11** and **Figure 4.8**).

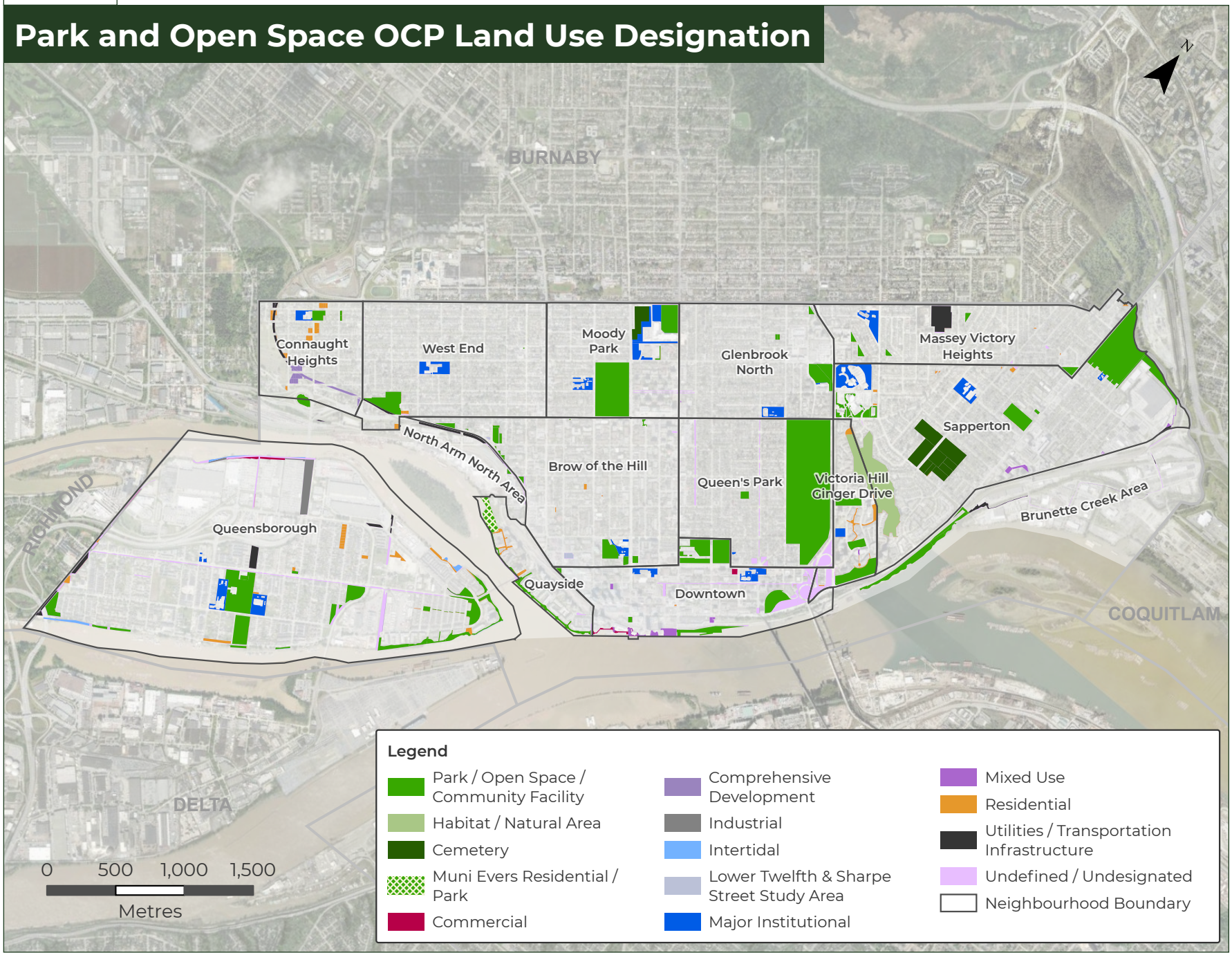
Map 4.9

City Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces



Map 4.10

Park and Open Space OCP Land Use Designation



Map 4.11

Parkland Protections

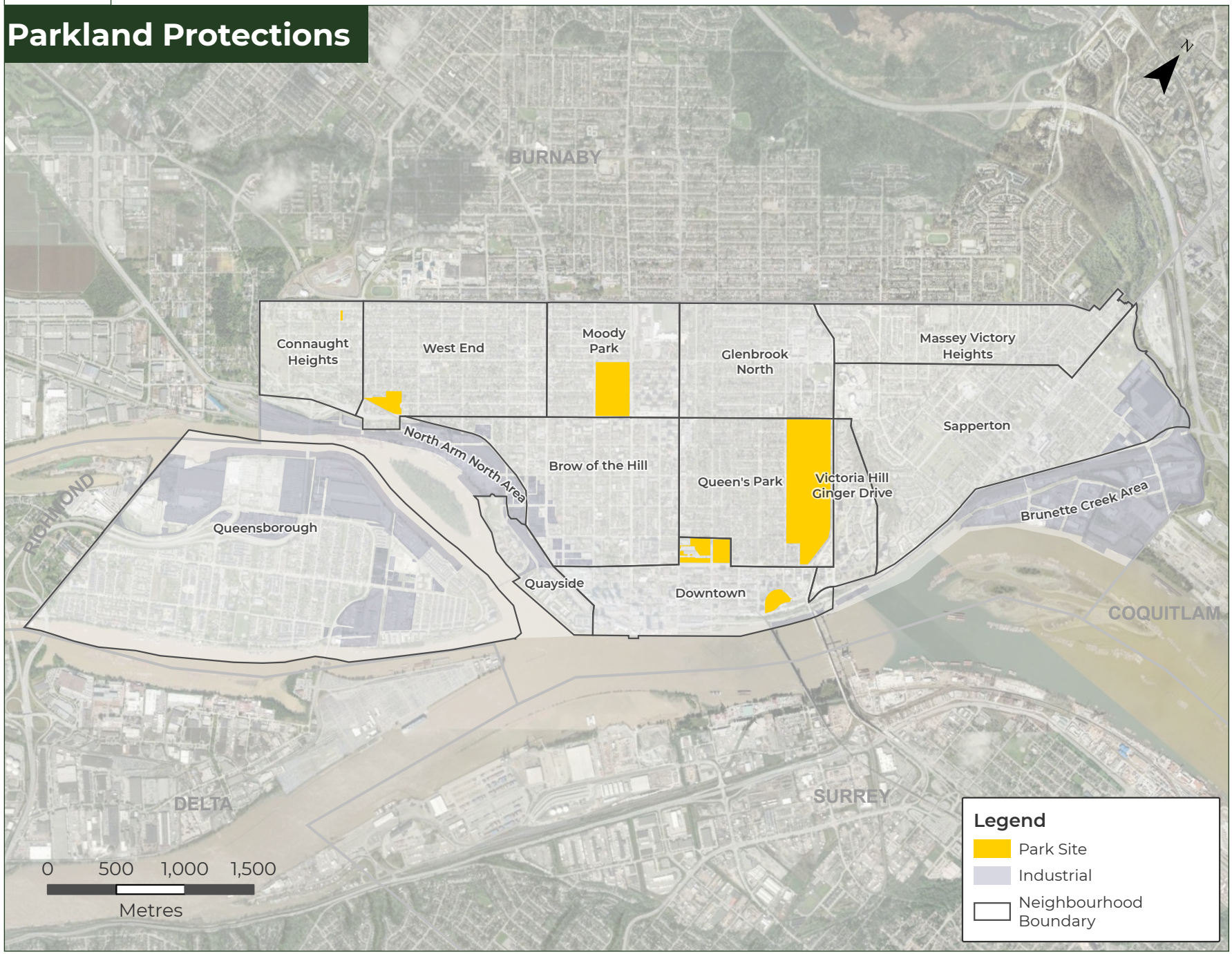


Figure 4.8: Parks with Extraordinary Establishment Mechanisms

Park Site / Parcel Address	Establishment Mechanism	Legal Reference / Notes
Queen's Park	Crown Grant	New Westminster Parks Act, 1908
Moody Park	Crown Grant	New Westminster Parks Act, 1908
Tipperary Park (Incl. Friendship Gardens)	Crown Grant	New Westminster Parks Act, 1908
Albert Crescent Park	Crown Grant	Provincial Grant
2038 Ninth Avenue	Crown Grant	Land Act No. 9071 / 1061
Grimston Park	Dedication by Bylaw	High-security municipal bylaw

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.

Parkland Need: Proximity, Growth, and Equity

More parkland is needed to support New Westminster's growing population, specifically in areas where:

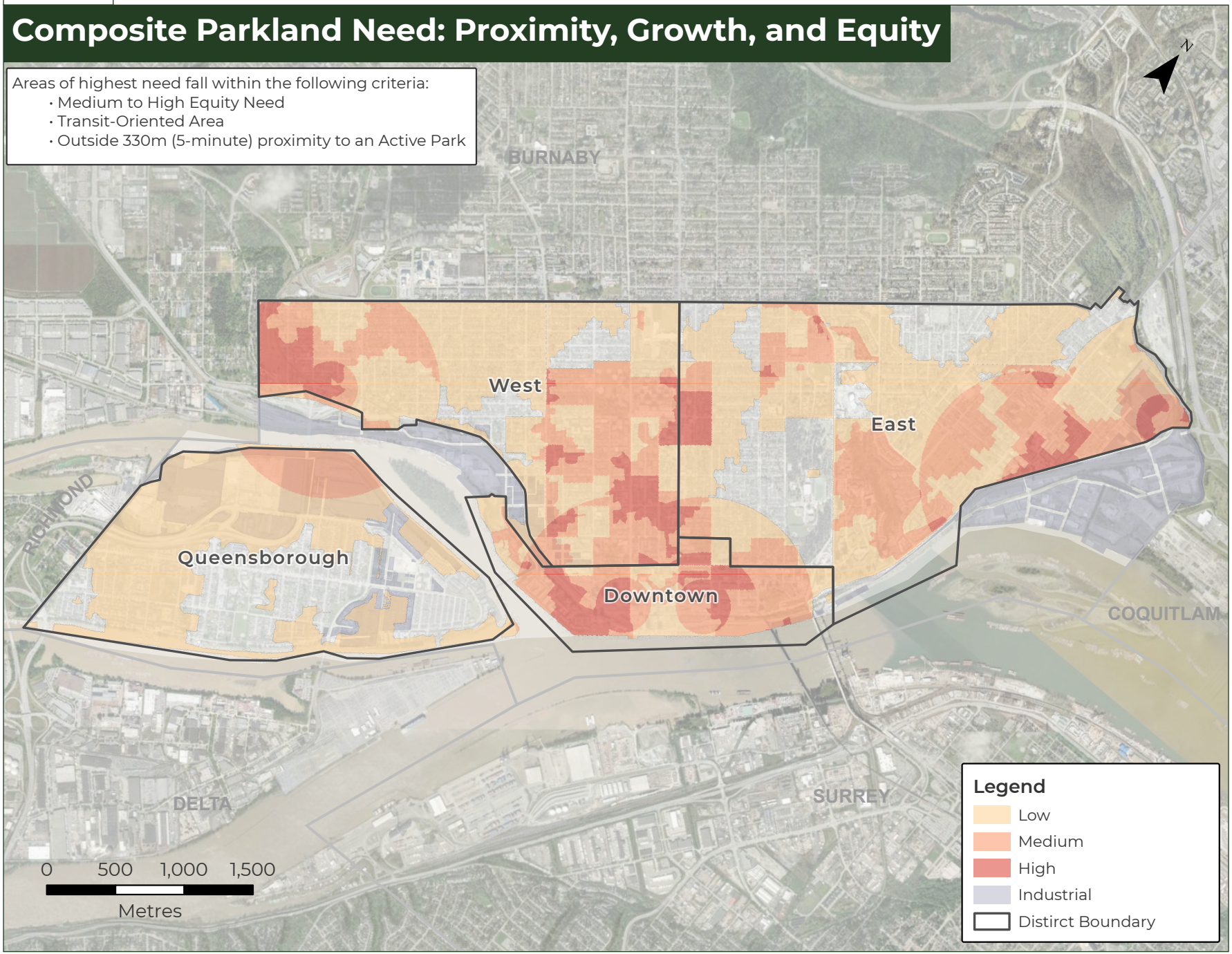
- **residents live beyond a five-minute walk of an active park**
- **equity needs are high**
- **high-density growth is anticipated**

Map 4.12 presents areas with the highest priority needs for diverse, high-quality parks within a comfortable walking distance of home. Areas are identified as "high relative need" if all three factors apply and "medium relative need" if two factors apply. Areas where one factor applies are defined as "low relative need."



Map 4.12

Composite Parkland Need: Proximity, Growth, and Equity



An important additional consideration for future parkland is the area needed to support proposed amenities. The following are required sizes for the larger facilities:

- Full size sports field (could be artificial turf) – 1.1 ha
- Artificial turf field with full size ball diamond – 1.3 ha
- Artificial turf field with track – 2 ha
- Multi-sports court with professional lacrosse – 0.16 ha (court only)
- Multi-sports court with viewing area - 0.27 ha
- Courts - 0.11ha for two tennis courts (i.e., 8 pickleball courts)

Most other park amenities will fit within the typical park sizes. Playgrounds, water play, dog off-leash areas, and all-wheel parks vary in size. For sand or grass volleyball, three courts are about the same size as a lacrosse box.

While the new active parkland targets require some larger tracts of land (e.g., sports fields, sports courts, large event spaces), acquiring large land parcels will be very challenging, especially in high-growth areas and Transit-Oriented Areas (TOAs) due to factor such as the cost and availability of land. For this reason, **People, Parks, and Play** includes a revised parks classification system that provides opportunities to access parks and open space beyond the traditional park. There is also a focus on strategic location, connectivity, creative design, multi-use spaces, construction quality, and parkland quantity. Combined, these strategies allow the City to balance the need for traditional large-scale recreation with the necessity of providing immediate, high-quality open spaces within the daily reach of every resident.

To achieve the city's ambitious parkland targets, the City will apply a multifaceted acquisition strategy that blends traditional land purchases with innovative urban design. Beyond direct capital investment and the strategic use of Parkland Development Cost Charges (DCCs), the City will look for opportunities to employ the following strategies:

- Acquisition or dedication of land or air space parcels
- Conversion of existing city-owned lands for parks
- Securing public access to pops
- Reallocation of road and lane space
- Public access agreements for lands owned by others (e.g., senior 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 that the city can act strategically when opportunities arise.

Space will also be required for future community centres which, given New Westminster's land constraints, will likely need to be integrated within new developments. Primary approaches for accomplishing this include developers building them as turnkey facilities or as shells in which the City constructs improvements. Where suitable buildings are available, other potential methods include conversions of commercial spaces such as malls or industrial spaces to community centres and co-location of community centres with other civic buildings.

4.3 Goal

Provide a diverse, high-quality, and equitable network of parks and open space that support the physical, social, and environmental well-being of all residents.



4.4 Objectives and Actions

Objective 4.1: Ensure equitable access by providing all residents with safe, five-minute walk (330 metres) of an active park (proximity target).

Actions

41.1 Develop a Strategic Parkland Acquisition Strategy to prioritize and secure land for current and future parkland needs.

41.2 Establish a minimum park size of 0.6 ha for new neighbourhood parks to ensure functional recreational value.

4.1.3 Acquire and develop up to 13.2 ha of land (approximately 22 new neighbourhood park spaces) with priority given to addressing proximity gaps in high-density and high-growth areas, with priority given to high equity-need neighbourhoods (downtown and west districts).

Objective 4.2: Maintain active parkland supply levels of service to keep pace with growth at 1.0 ha per 1,000 population city-wide (the population target).

Actions

4.2.1 Secure an additional 12.3 ha of active parkland to keep up with total city-wide population projections, ensuring the combined acquisition target of 25.5 ha meets both proximity and population needs.

4.2.2 Integrate large-scale outdoor amenity requirements into acquisition planning to ensure new parcels meet minimum size and site characteristic needs (e.g., 1.1 ha for sports fields, 2.0 ha for regulation-size tracks).



Objective 4.3: Expand the acquisition toolkit to include innovation and optimization.

Actions

4.3.1 Apply the updated parkland classification system, integrating new types such as urban parks (e.g., pocket parks, park-like streets, plazas, boulevard rooms, etc.), linear parks, and green spaces/nature parks into the city network. This includes evaluating and integrating the 2026 Community Advisory Assembly recommendations for the design and implementation of pocket parks and park-like streets.

4.3.2 Maximize opportunities to expand the park network by securing air space parcels, privately-owned public spaces (POPS), partnerships and use agreements, and street right-of-way reallocations.

4.3.3 Evaluate existing City-owned non-parklands for potential conversion to full or partial park use.

Objective 4.4: Improve protection of existing and future parks.

Actions

4.4.1 Complete the inventory of existing parklands that possess specific extraordinary park use conditions and protection.

4.4.2 Apply appropriate Official Community Plan land use designations to identify all existing parks and areas anticipated to have future parkland needs.



FOCUS AREA 5

5.0 Connectivity

5.1 Context

Walking and wheeling for recreation and transportation purposes have environmental, health, and social benefits. They offer no- and low-cost options that can bring people closer to nature. Ensuring the **safe movement of people** by creating safer, more accessible streets by prioritizing walking, cycling, and transit over personal vehicles is a strategic priority for the City. This commitment is exemplified by **Bold Step 2 – Car-Light Community** – prioritizing transit and active transportation to create a more sustainable, walkable city.

A comprehensive, city-wide network of multi-use paths (MUPs), greenways, and bike lanes provides the primary framework for moving through New Westminster. While these serve as the primary routes for cross-city travel, a finer-grained, complementary network of paths and trails provides residents with access to natural areas, wildlife, and riverfront experiences. Through their geographic names and local character, these routes support community identity and wayfinding.

Recent projects such as the Agnes Street Greenway and Rotary Crosstown Greenway demonstrate the importance of a multi-purpose approach in their design, integrating amenities and greening that support recreation, social interaction, climate resilience, and active transportation.

Park trails and pathways are among the City's most valued, highly-used public assets. Residents express high satisfaction with existing routes like the Millennium Trail in Queen's Park, the Waterfront Esplanade and the Perimeter Trail in Queensborough. At the same time, opportunities for improvement remain in connectivity and safety. Residents consistently note that the system currently feels like a **collection of valuable but disconnected segments** (particularly on the riverfront), and some have expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety due to the speed and volume of **e-mobility devices.**

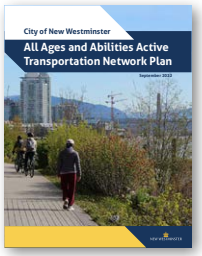


The City has completed several plans and strategies focused on active transportation that prioritize the safe movement of people across an integrated network of both on- and off-road corridors:



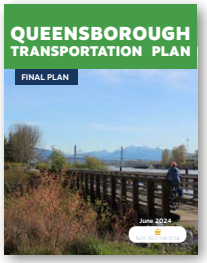
Master Transportation Plan (TMP) (2015)

The City's first comprehensive plan that integrates active transportation, the TMP outlines a vision of and directions for a multi-modal transportation system. It guides transportation policies, priorities, programs, and investments including that support walking, cycling, transit use, great streets, neighbourhood livability (e.g., traffic calming), vehicle demand management, and well-managed local and regional travel through the city including goods movement.



All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan (AAA ATNP) (2022)

Based on a rapid implementation approach, the AAA ATNP identifies an updated active transportation network, including: a core network that connects all major destinations including neighbourhoods, commercial areas, civic facilities, schools, parks, and interregional routes; and a supporting network that provides additional local connections. A primary feature of the AAA ATNP is multi-use pathways (MUPs) that serve both active transportation and outdoor recreation, travelling through parks and open spaces as well as along road corridors. Together with bike lanes, MUPs are intended to provide integrated cycling routes.



Queensborough Transportation Plan (2024)

This strategic roadmap addresses the unique geographic and logistical challenges of Queensborough's "island" geography. The plan prioritizes safety, connectivity, and sustainable mobility, while emphasizing the necessity of advocacy and partnerships with other agencies such as TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) for successful implementation.



Electric Mobility Strategy (2022)

Ahead of developing this strategy, data showed that transportation was responsible for nearly half of New Westminster's community emissions. Accordingly, the City aims to reduce these emissions and improve quality of life through encouraging a car-light community and pollution-free vehicles. This strategy defines a vision for accelerating electric mobility (i.e., eMobility) adoption; support of eMicromobility; improved access to e-bikes and secure public and private e-bike parking; support for electric vehicles (EVs); and improved access to EV charging in public spaces, at home, and at work; and more.

People, Parks, and Play aims to ensure a seamless experience for residents moving between city streets and the parks and recreation system. While the **Active Transportation Network Plan** (ATNP) is being implemented in phases, the Parks and Recreation Department is collaborating closely with the Transportation Division to coordinate connections to and through parks and directly to recreation facilities.

This integrated mapping approach identifies potential gaps between the comprehensive city-wide network of multi-use paths (MUPs), greenways, and bike lanes and the finer-grain pathways and trails within parks. By closing these gaps, the City can improve the network in supporting both individual and community health- encouraging active lifestyles and local commuting by non-motorized means- and ensuring a **seamless transition between outdoor and indoor active living.** The following are the network components (**Map 5.1**):

Multi-Use Pathways (MUPs) comprised of existing and proposed facilities within parks and open space or within the road right-of-way, physically separated from motor vehicles. These provide sufficient width for people walking, cycling, or using other forms of active transportation such as in-line skating and jogging.

Pathways / Trails comprised of major paths through parks, intended mainly for walking and recreational wheels, that extend to other destinations (some of which are identified as part of the "supporting network" in the ATNP).

On-Street Active Transportation comprised of protected bicycle lanes and local street bikeways in the AAA ATNP.

Key connectors 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.

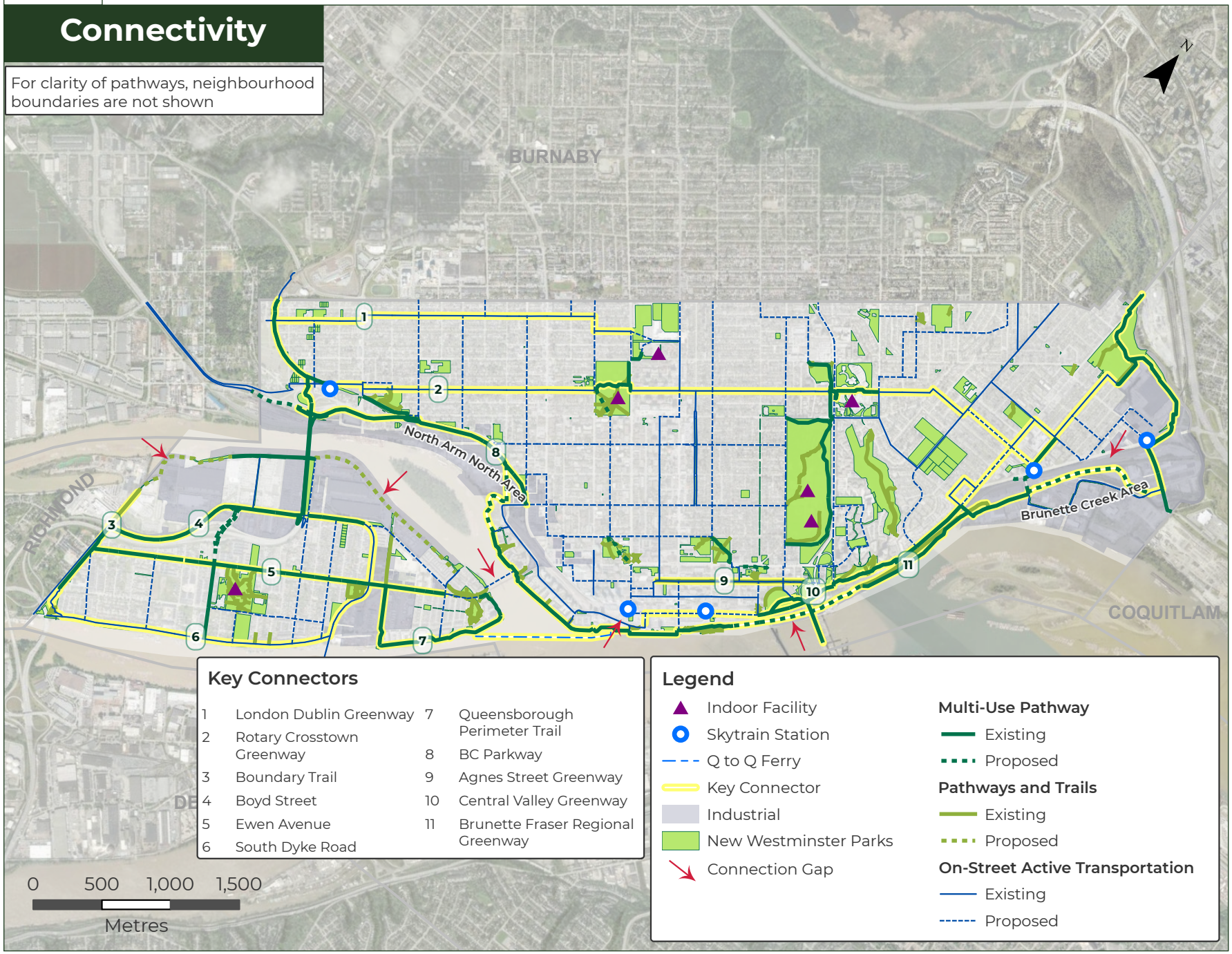
As gaps are identified, the Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Transportation Division toward phased connectivity improvements. This partnership ensures a unified approach that seamlessly integrates park and pathway planning and policy with Engineering and Public Works, making active living an easy and intuitive choice for all residents. **Map 5.1** identifies the proposed pathways and trails, and several key gaps, to support the goal of bridging existing segments and enhancing the user experience.

Further knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

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 Goal

Strengthen multi-modal connections to and within the parks and recreation system.

5.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 5.1: Conduct an analysis of the parks and recreation system to identify and address connection gaps in the city-wide active transportation network.

Understanding baseline conditions – including system and amenity conditions and gaps – supports identification of opportunities and priorities for improvements in pathways and greenways.

Actions

5.1.1. Prioritize safe, non-vehicular connectivity to active parks within Transit-Oriented Areas (TOAs) and dense, land-constrained neighbourhoods to ensure they can access recreational spaces easily and safely.

5.1.2 Establish a service level standard and identify gaps in essential amenities — specifically lighting, seating, water stations, and wayfinding — across all park trails and the City-wide active transportation network to enhance user comfort and safety.

5.1.3 Identify steep-slope barriers where topography limits access to parks and recreation facilities. Map out “gentle-grade” alternative routes to ensure a connected network for users of all abilities.

5.1.4 Collaborate with Engineering and Public Works Department and TransLink to advocate for enhanced transit and active transportation links to major parks and recreation facilities.







Objective 5.2: Improve riverfront connectivity.

Enhancing access and user experience at the riverfront involves strengthening connectivity to and along the waterfront.

Actions

5.2.1 Advance the Riverfront Vision by completing missing links in the mainland's east-west riverfront corridor, ensuring a continuous, accessible experience from Sapperton Landing Park to future Muni-Evers Park; and bridge gaps along the perimeter trail to create a complete, uninterrupted loop around Queensborough.

5.2.2 Work interdepartmentally on options to improve the connection for pedestrians and cyclists between the mainland and Queensborough.

5.2.3 Explore the feasibility and potential partnerships with external organizations to upgrade the Hyack Square pedestrian overpass, ensuring it meets universal accessibility standards to provide a safe, high-quality gateway to the riverfront.



Objective 5.3: Enhance user experience and wayfinding

Considering the diverse connectivity and wayfinding needs among New Westminster's residents will improve all users' experiences with the city's greenways and pathways.

Actions

5.3.1 Implement clear and consistent park name identification and wayfinding signage throughout the parks system that links internal pathways to the broader city-wide wayfinding network.

5.3.2 Design multi-use paths through parks that minimize impact on active park uses (such as sports fields or playgrounds) and address potential conflicts, through both design and policy, between different types of users (e.g., pedestrians and cyclists).

5.3.3 Ensure adequate bike and e-mobility parking is included within parks and at the entrances of recreation facilities.



FOCUS AREA 6

6.0 Park Amenities and Facilities

6.1 Context

Outdoor recreation amenities and facilities are essential to supporting community well-being, and there are a number of areas in which the City must expand, renew, and optimize its offerings.

Compared with other similar communities, New Westminster has a low supply of certain outdoor amenities. To keep pace with anticipated population growth and maintain existing service levels, the inventory of spray parks, picnic shelters, tennis/pickleball courts, and basketball/multi-sports courts will need to expand. Other relatively low supply amenities include artificial turf fields, skate/all-wheel parks, disc golf courses, community gardens, walking/running tracks, and beach/field volleyball courts.

While residents greatly appreciate the quality of existing park amenities, there is a strong community desire for new and improved sports fields and renewed playgrounds.

Park Plans

The location and design of amenities have historically been guided by various planning efforts including neighbourhood public realm guidelines, specific park master plans, and the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (2008). Building on these efforts, several strategies and master plans are underway or have been recently completed and are in various stages of implementation.

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to best practices in the planning and development of its parks and recreation facilities. This includes collecting relevant background information and data; conducting site analyses; and facilitating community engagement, with the nature of participation tailored accordingly to scale of the project (i.e., neighbouhood-scale parks through to city parks).

Land constraints demand that plans have a long-term vision that allows for strategic, phased improvements as funds become available. Six of eight existing city and community parks have guiding master plans that are in place or underway. As the population grows, preparing plans for all existing and future sites classified as city and community parks will be a key priority.

Likewise, ensuring that park design is integrated into the urban fabric of all neighbourhoods is necessary particularly for dense areas with limited available lands. This approach requires innovative planning tools such as the Downtown Building and Public Realm Design Guidelines and strategic reallocation of space within rights-of-way.

Play Features

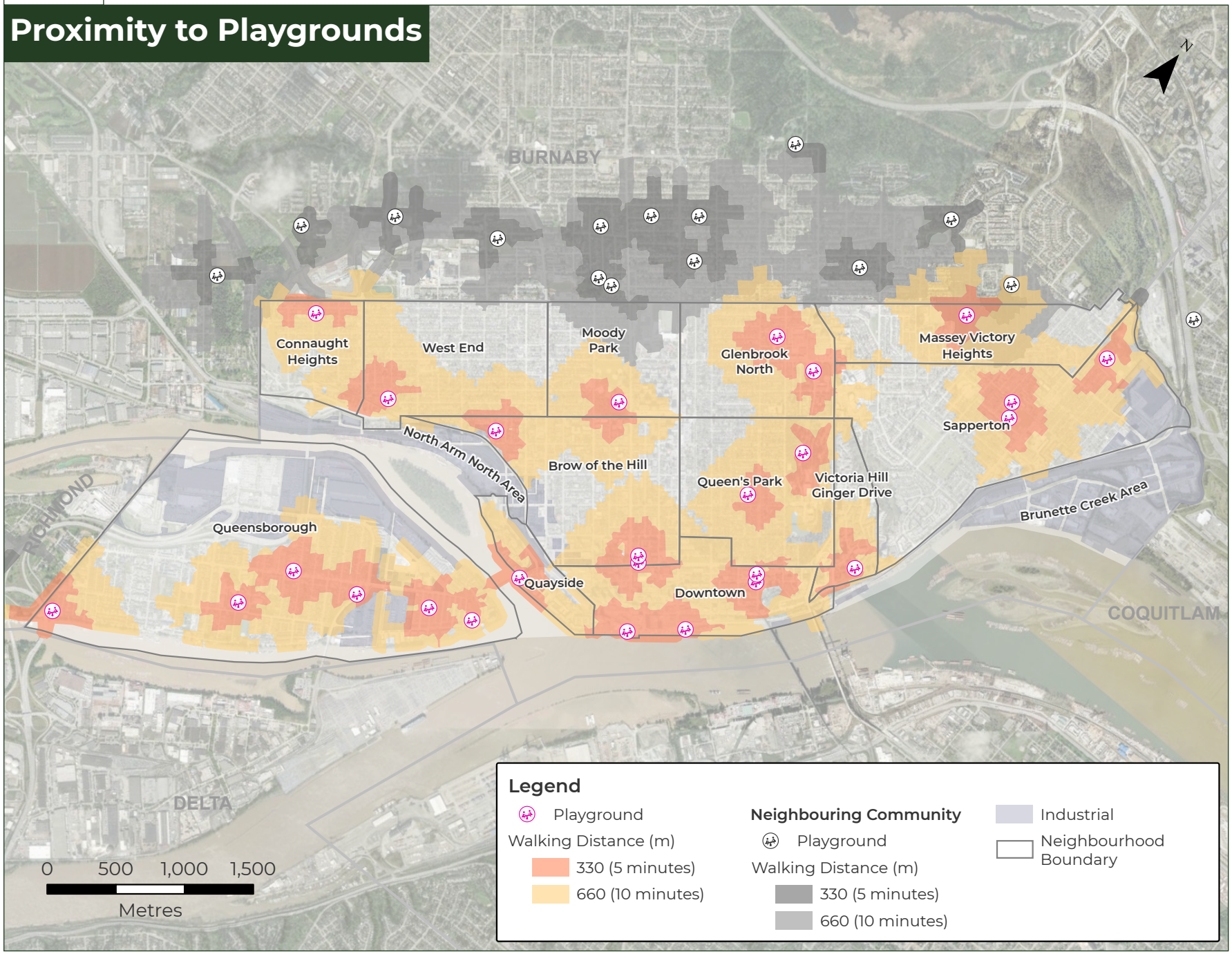
Playgrounds

New Westminster has 23 playgrounds situated in parks, each offering a variety of play features that serve children of multiple ages and abilities. Key strengths include: age-appropriate design and unstructured play opportunities (e.g., Moody Park, Ryall Park); and synergies with schools, as many city-owned playgrounds are adjacent to schools and serve as play spaces (e.g., Terry Hughes Park, Saint Mary's Park, Connaught Heights Park, Simcoe Park, and Ryall Park). The demand is expected to expand as more urban schools are developed, with growing wear and tear necessitating increased maintenance and renewal. **Map 6.1** shows the playground locations with five- and ten-minute walking distances.

Trends in playgrounds are based on increasing creativity, inclusivity, and interest, with features such as interactive, collaborative play environments that enable children to experience more nature in parks, unstructured play, and a range of material options ranging from traditional metal play equipment to natural wood features for all ages and abilities.

Map 6.1

Proximity to Playgrounds



An important design consideration for maximizing community benefit is the strategic co-location of playgrounds with other park amenities such as sports fields and courts, outdoor fitness stations, and seating and gathering areas that provide support for caregivers who can comfortably supervise children while possibly engaging in a variety of activities. Indeed, playgrounds are more than just play spaces – they are social settings for both children and caregivers supporting community connectivity.

In line with child-friendly cities, the Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide play opportunities within a five-to-ten-minute walk of all residents. Gaps in access exist, with some residents lacking play opportunities within a short walk of home. As outdoor space becomes more limited with a growing population, opportunities for play and discovery in daily life must be embedded directly into the urban fabric through transformed streetscapes, plazas, pocket parks, and linear parks.



All-Wheel Parks

Three all-wheel parks exist in New Westminster, with two accommodating all ages and abilities and wheel types from beginner to expert. Among them, these parks include a large bowl, peanut-style bowl, street style elements, quarter pipes, banks, extensions, and bike skills that are integrated into a forested area.

These parks are well distributed across the city and are highly valued, particularly by youth who use them as social and recreational hubs including with their families. They are highly used and there is a demand for additional sites, as well as enhancements to existing ones. Specifically, there are requests for weather-protection and lighting for extended usability.

Parks for wheeled devices have evolved significantly in recent years, with both specialized and inclusive facilities that have become standard and expected community amenities; however, dedicating large parcels of land for a single purpose is a significant challenge in New Westminster. Space constraints require strategies such as incorporating smaller, flexible skate spots and features into urban spaces (e.g., grind rails along planters and stairs, small ramps and quarter pipes at park edges).



The new skatespot currently underway beneath the **Downtown Parkade** (as part of the Fourth Street Stairs and Flex Space project) exemplifies this approach. This project demonstrates how a skate feature can be seamlessly integrated into existing infrastructure while benefiting from built-in **lighting and weather protection**, ensuring the space is usable year-round.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

A variety of outdoor fitness areas exist in New Westminster, some of which have multiple pieces of equipment, including features for all abilities including those with mobility challenges. They are free and accessible to all residents.

Outdoor exercise equipment is most successful in locations where many people congregate (e.g., large playgrounds, community centres) **or pass by** (e.g., linear parks, trails, pathways). The Parks and Recreation Department aims to increase the supply of these amenities to actively encourage time outdoors and provide convenient, no-cost wellness opportunities.



Field Sports

Sports fields in New Westminster are used primarily for soccer, footballs, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. Ultimate frisbee and rugby are also played. Most sites classified as city and community parks have sports fields, with some smaller fields in neighbourhood parks.

Sports Fields

Sixteen grass sports fields and two lit artificial turf fields (ATFs) exist in New Westminster, with the latter supporting high use levels and providing year-round, all-weather playing surfaces. They are well-distributed and most fields are situated on City property, with some on School District land (**Map 6.2**). All fields are booked by the Parks and Recreation Department to ensure seamless community use.

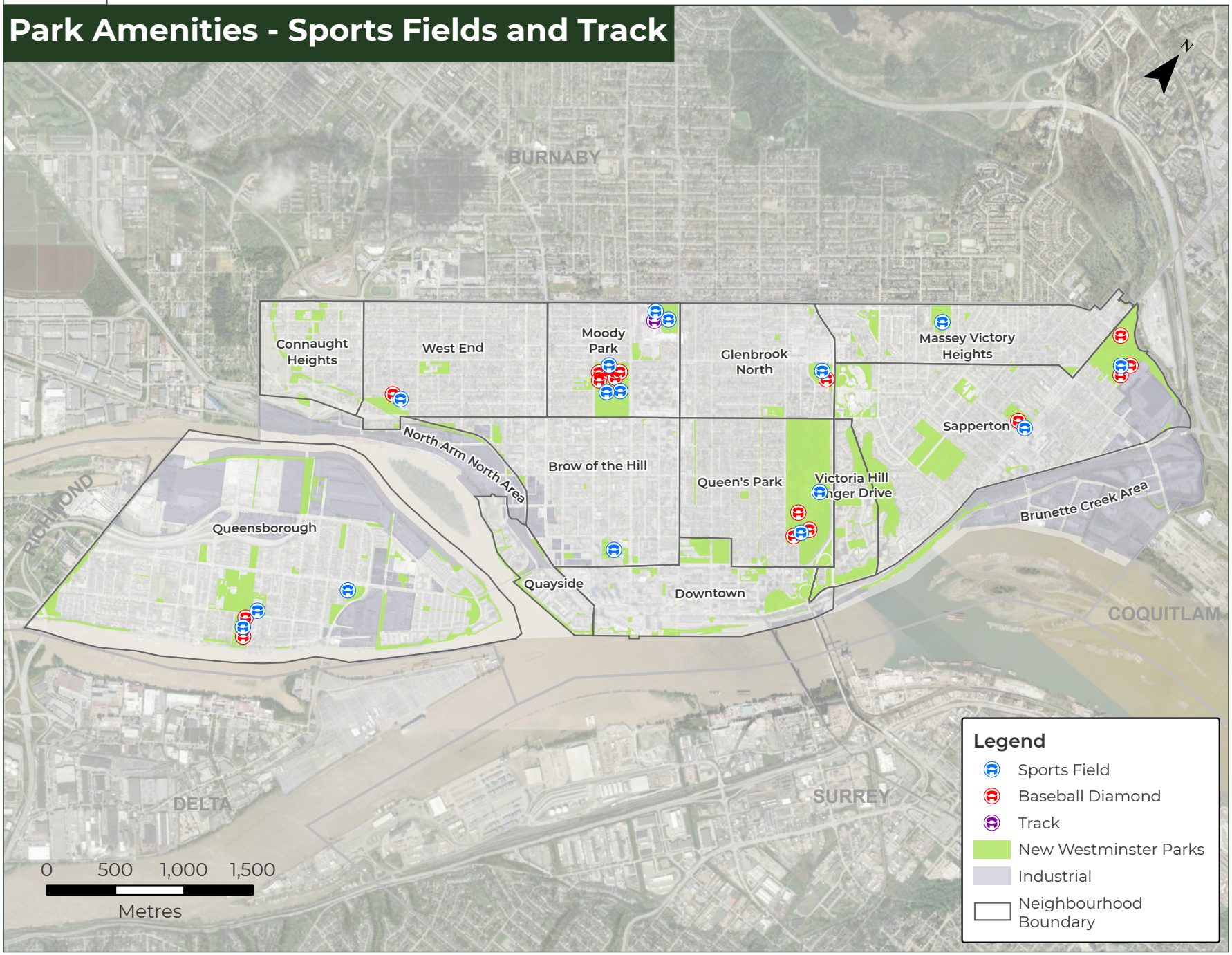
The overall supply of sports fields is low compared to demand and best practices. Some of the grass fields are in poor or fair condition, Queen's Park's artificial turf was recently replaced (2025), and the Mercer Stadium artificial turf will require replacement soon. Many fields lack amenities and sufficient lighting, spectator seating, storage, and washrooms/changerooms.

In dense communities, lit ATFs are important to meeting the high demand for field sports. Given New Westminster's land constraints, optimizing field utilization is vital, particularly as the population grows and use of existing fields intensifies. Since natural grass fields require rest periods and are often unusable in prolonged wet weather, planning for additional lit ATFs is important to extend organized sports and recreational opportunities year-round and into the evening.

ATFs can also create impacts for player safety, surrounding residents, and the local environment. As such, the Parks and Recreation Department undertakes thorough site selection and analysis before ATF installation and looks to newer ATF technology that utilizes alternative fill materials.

Map 6.2

Park Amenities - Sports Fields and Track



Ball Diamonds

Sixteen ball diamonds exist in seven different parks in New Westminster, with conditions ranging from fair to very good. There are multiple locations in which sports fields and ball diamonds overlap on both grass and artificial turf fields.

Supply of ball diamonds is equivalent to comparable communities; however, demand is expected to increase with a growing population. Like sports field users, ball field user groups have expressed concerns that there are insufficient ball diamonds and some lack washrooms, changerooms, and storage facilities.



Athletic Tracks, Trails, and Pathways

Mercer Stadium is the City's premier facility for track and field, serving a vital hub for range of users including high school students, community clubs (of which two are elite level), and the general public, who have regular access for walking and running. The stadium's shared-use model for these groups makes it highly valued and consistently activated throughout the day for both organized sport and individual recreation.

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 vehicle-free natural or green space settings. Some of these pathways serve a dual purpose by functioning as both recreational trails and serving as part of the



City's Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) and the regional and local greenway system. Examples of park trails and pathways include Millennium Trail, Waterfront Esplanade, Queensborough Perimeter Trail, Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway and informal walking trails through forested areas in Queen's Park, Glenbrook Ravine, and Hume Park.

Stadiums

Two outdoor stadiums exist in New Westminster for sports field spectators, and include washrooms, changerooms, and storage. Mercer Stadium offers seating for 1000 people, and Queen's Park Stadium can accommodate 2000 spectators. Most communities of a comparable size have only one stadium or grandstand.

These stadiums provide important community benefits by offering capacity for both sports tournaments and significant civic and cultural events, enhancing the city's ability to host large-scale gatherings. The Queen's Park Stadium is currently a traditional sports-focused venue; its upcoming replacement will be scaled to meet today's community needs and designed to accommodate a broader range of community uses. Mercer Stadium requires significant improvements in future years.



Courts

Outdoor sport courts in New Westminster primarily support lacrosse, basketball, tennis, and the rapidly growing sport of pickleball. Volleyball and ball hockey are also popular activities. Most community parks feature court facilities, ranging from dedicated lacrosse boxes and tennis courts to smaller, neighbourhood-scale basketball pads and multi-sport surfaces.

Outdoor Lacrosse Boxes

Lacrosse is a sport with deep roots in the community. Three dedicated lacrosse boxes are used by multiple lacrosse teams, which is a comparatively high supply. Lacrosse boxes are also well distributed across the mainland in New Westminster

The lacrosse box located in Hume Park is in good condition while the other two – situated in Moody and Grimston Parks – are in fair condition. There is community interest in covering at least one of these boxes and also in providing better access in Queensborough, as this area of the city does not have a lacrosse box.



The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to transitioning to a multi-sport court and multi-sport box model in order to accommodate a diverse range of activities – such as pickleball, basketball, and ball hockey, in addition to lacrosse – transforming single-purpose sites into versatile, year-round assets that serve a broader segment of the population.

Basketball Facilities

Seven basketball facilities in parks include a mix of full and half courts, as well as mini-courts. While the supply and distribution of these facilities is reasonable, the prevalence of non-standard courts limits opportunities for full-court games and is inadequate to meeting the future demand. Youth identified the need for more full-size courts.

With an eye toward optimizing land use in a land-constrained city, there is an opportunity to integrate basketball courts into underutilized paved spaces. For example, full or half-size courts within City facility parking lots could be used for informal play during non-peak parking hours.



Tennis and Pickleball Courts

The City has 23 public outdoor tennis courts, all of which are lined to also provide 30 pickle ball courts. While there are also two dedicated pickleball courts at Westburnco Reservoir, these are temporary installations on land leased from Metro Vancouver. To support the sport's rapid growth, residents have expressed an interest in lighting at a variety of locations to extend playing hours year-round.

The condition of the courts varies widely from poor to very good. While lighting is available at the Queen's Park and Moody Park courts – which extends the sports seasons into the spring and fall – none of the public courts are covered for all-weather play.

Tennis has experienced varying participation levels over the years. Pickleball participation has been growing rapidly in the last couple of decades across Canada. Given land constraints, the Parks and Recreation department has prioritized upgrades and new multi-sport courts that optimize available paved surfaces for a growing population.



Outdoor Volleyball Courts

Two outdoor volleyball grass courts are situated in Ryall Park, available on a seasonal basis and providing a popular, inclusive, social activity that is relatively low-cost. They are in good condition and can support multiple activities if the volleyball use is not high enough to damage the grass. Residents have expressed a desire for more outdoor volleyball courts.

Sand volleyball courts are popular and are a low-cost amenity to build, however they present challenges resulting from a reduced utility due to a limited seasonal window, and their single-use nature that cannot be adapted to other recreational activities.

Outdoor Multi-Sport Courts

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[2]. These courts are ideal for land-constrained cities like New Westminster because they maximize the recreational value of limited parkland and significantly reduce per sport construction and maintenance costs.

Moving forward, the Parks and Recreation Department will convert existing suitable courts to multi-sport (three or more) facilities where feasible, and prioritize the development of new, purpose-built multi-sport amenities including covered boxes.





2 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.

Dog Off-Leash Areas

There are 10 public dog off-leash areas and one dog relief area in New Westminster. This inventory includes a variety of facility types ranging from larger parks to smaller parklets that vary significantly in size, design, and condition. The Agnes Greenway, Moody Park, and the downtown dog relief station off-leash areas have lighting that extends use into the evening and winter months. The inventory of dog off-leash areas constitutes a reasonable supply, and the People, Parks and Pups Strategy indicates that an increase in supply and more diverse off-leash options will be needed as the population grows.

Offering health and social benefits to both dogs and their owners, dog off-leash areas have become an essential component of the park system as urban densification continues. Guided by the People, Parks and Pups Strategy, the department has a goal of providing access to dog off-leash areas within a five-to-ten-minute walk of all residences.

At the same time, single-use and fenced dog off-leash areas require significant land, and there are challenges in finding surface materials that are suitable for all dogs and people. To complement the public system, **the City requires new higher density private developments to provide on-site dog relief areas** to help reduce dog waste on sidewalks and planted areas along streets and in parks.



Cooling Facilities

Spray Parks

The Parks and Recreation Department operates five spray parks that typically run from late May through late September, which use user-activated systems with regulated water nozzles. Locations include Hume, Moody, Ryall, Sapperton, and Queen's Parks. The westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park will include a new plaza with seasonal spray jets.

Children's spray parks have become increasingly popular in recent years, offering safe, interactive, water-based fun without the requirement of a full swimming pool. Modern design trends are expanding the utility and inclusivity of these areas, focusing on sensory-rich environments to accommodate children with diverse needs. They may also include shaded seating areas for caregivers, picnic tables, and nearby playgrounds or sports courts. Contemporary designs focus on sustainability, incorporating eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient pumps, recirculating systems, and natural features like rain gardens that manage water runoff.

The current supply of spray parks is insufficient for meeting the needs of a growing population, with significant service gaps on the west side of the city's mainland. There is a need to upgrade many of the parks, improve maintenance, and extend the operating season.



Outdoor Pools and Wading Pools

New Westminster has two outdoor pools and one wading pool. The pool at Moody Park is over 10 years old, in very good condition, and a popular summer destination. However, the public has identified a desire for other amenities there, such as shade and a shallow area. The pool at Hume Park is beyond its lifespan and the wading pool at Grimston Park is in fair condition.

While outdoor pools and wading pools are popular and an asset in extreme heat, they present a significant financial and operational burden. While modern, energy-efficient construction is available, it is often cost prohibitive. Major investments are difficult to justify with a short operating season that is typically from June to September. Many cities are now shifting focus to water play alternatives like spray parks that are more flexible, affordable, and sustainable.



Misting Stations

Fifteen misting stations are well-distributed across the mainland and Queensborough, strategically focused in high-density areas where the urban heat island effect is most severe. However, there are service gaps in some areas, as not every neighbourhood has one.

Misting stations have been recently introduced to parks and public spaces, triggered by recent heat events. They provide opportunities to cool off and fill a water bottle. Typically located in high-use public space, they share some of the benefits of spray parks and can be sustainable by minimizing water with micro-mist technology and fabrication using recyclable materials.



Outdoor Enjoyment

Picnic Areas and Pavilions

There are six picnic shelters in New Westminster, and more will be needed for a growing population. They are well-used amenities that are inclusive, foster social connection, and extend the hours that people can comfortably use parks.

The location of Lower Hume Park makes it one of the most popular, often hosting company functions, private picnics, and community events. The shelters at Ryall Park, Port Royal Park, and Queen's Park are also popular, benefiting from the proximity to playgrounds, recreation facilities, public washrooms, and other park amenities. The supply is low on the west side of the mainland and in the downtown area.

There are approximately 140 picnic tables distributed among the parks in New Westminster, and they are generally in good condition. While some are accessible, the Parks and Recreation Department is conducting accessibility audits with an eye toward making access to picnic areas and tables more inclusive.



Outdoor Stages / Plazas

There are five primary locations in which social gatherings and cultural performances can be hosted: Queen's Park, Ryall Park, Sapperton Plaza, Uptown Plaza, and Hyack Square. Programming at Hyack Square is specifically limited due to permanent public art installations on the stage. The venue distribution will be further enhanced in summer 2026 with the completion of a new stage and plaza within the westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park. Overall, these venues offer a balanced geographic distribution across the community.

Outdoor event spaces are flexible, popular, and highly valued as they build community, foster social connection, and provide an inclusive platform for cultural celebrations. Additional public gathering spaces will be needed to adequately serve new and densifying communities, and to ensure equitable access for a growing population. To meet this demand, the Parks and Recreation staff is working with the Community Services staff to actively expand its inventory of event-ready spaces and cultivating community partnerships to facilitate diverse, city-wide activation.



Community Gardens

There are six community gardens in parks and on City Hall grounds, including a new community garden specifically for youth next to the skate park in Queen's Park. All gardens are operated via local community organizations. Port Royal Park community garden is one of the oldest, and most well-established and well-managed. Most are in good condition. Community gardens are valued assets that provide residents with opportunities for local food production, socializing, exercise, and education about food systems.

Community gardens are not equally distributed across the city, concentrated in the downtown, Brow of the Hill, and Queensborough. Likewise, the city's overall supply of community gardens is low compared to similar municipalities, resulting in long waitlists.

There is growing community desire for different models of urban agriculture, particularly more fruit trees and Indigenous-led food forests. Residents who identify as LGBTQ2S+ report significantly higher dissatisfaction, pointing to a need to improve the safety and inclusivity of these spaces.



Disc Golf

There are no disc golf courses in New Westminster. With its rising popularity, disc golf is an amenity being increasingly integrated into parks elsewhere. Course layouts are often woven into natural landscapes or near other recreation areas. Sensitive to local ecosystems, courses prioritize habitat for wildlife and incorporate "leave no trace" principles into construction and maintenance.

Residents have expressed an interest in seeing a disc golf course at Queen's Park. They are inexpensive to install and to use, bringing people together for inclusive social activities. At the same time, courses require a significant amount of space and have a low volume of other uses.



Photo is not of the City of New Westminster



Public Washrooms

There are 15 permanent washrooms located within or near parks, including both older facilities and new buildings with universal design. Some park-serving washrooms are standalone buildings, while others are incorporated into concessions, public schools, and recreation buildings that are accessed from the outdoors. There are also 10 temporary washrooms or seasonal porta-potties, however these are inaccessible to some people.

While the supply of public washrooms in parks is fairly high, some need improving or replacement. Some are not always open, and it can be challenging to provide sufficient washrooms that meet all peoples' needs. New washrooms are accessible and easier to clean.

Public washrooms are an important part of an inclusive city, as they enable people of all ages and abilities to spend more time in parks and on trails. The city is preparing a City-Wide Toilet Strategy to improve access to and standards for public toilets.

Further knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

6.2 Goal

Expand, renew, and optimize parks and park amenities.

6.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 6.1: Advance strategic park planning and development.

Meeting overarching goals related to parks and recreation requires strategic, comprehensive planning that guides decision making.

Actions

6.1.1 Establish a master plan (guided by the analysis and needs assessment identified in this Plan) for each park classified as a city or community park to guide long-term growth and investment.

6.1.2 Continue to implement all park master plans and upgrade amenities in existing parks as identified in this Plan.

6.1.3 Maximize the Growing Community Fund by evaluating high-priority projects that provide the greatest community impact.







Objective 6.2: Respond to current and future community needs through proactive planning and design.

By utilizing best practices, data, and projections, the department can be proactive and responsive in its planning and delivery of parks and recreation services.

Actions

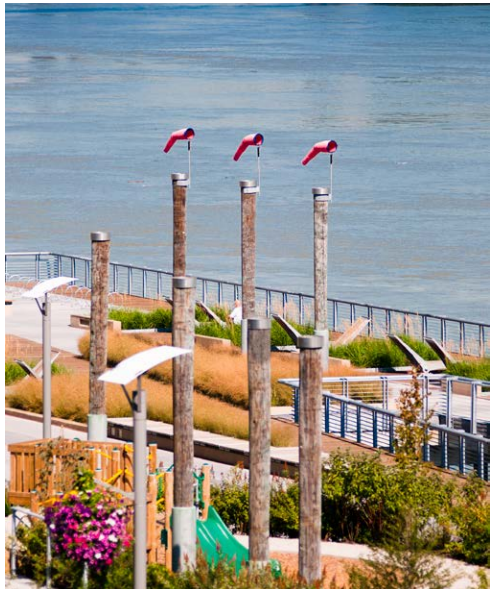
6.2.1 Prioritize the comprehensive list of capital projects to address existing service gaps. Key capital projects include:

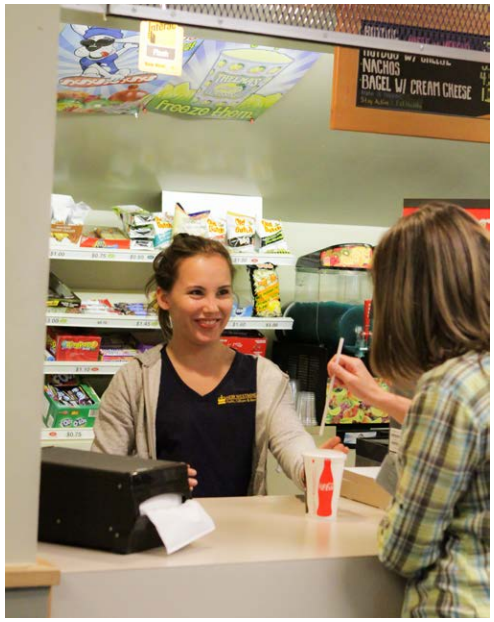
Environmental Stewardship & Urban Forest

- Ongoing street tree replacement and targeted planting city-wide (URBEI Phase Two) to maximize tree canopy cover on streets and boulevards
- Invasive species removal and native replanting at Glenbrook Ravine Park

Sports Fields and Active Recreation

- Conversion of existing grass fields at Ryall Park to artificial turf (including ball diamond, lighting, walking track, and seating)
- Sport court upgrades at Westburnco, Simcoe Park, Grimston, and Moody Park to multi-sport courts
- Upgrading the Hume Park lacrosse box to covered multi-sport facility
- Improvements to Cornwall Street Park (Brow of the Hill)
- Replacing the Queen's Park Stadium
- New dog off-leash area (location to be determined)





New Park Spaces

- Completing the Westward Expansion of Westminster Pier Park (Park Space C) on the Riverfront
- Completing the Commemorative Park at 824 Agnes Street (downtown)
- Continuing to work towards redevelopment of the Westminster Pier Park fire site

Play Features

- Playground replacement at Grimston Park
- Spray park renewals at Ryall, Queen's, and Hume Parks

Public Washrooms and Other Amenities/ Facilities

- Installing public washrooms at Park Space C, Old Schoolhouse Park, and Commemorative Park at 824 Agnes Street
- Completing replacement of the Queen's Park bandshell
- Improvements to the Queen's Park Habitat building for year-round programming
- Installing bike storage lockers at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre
- Replacing a segment of the Quayside Esplanade lighting

6.2.2 Explore options for safe, public access to the river for water-based recreation.

6.2.3 Integrate multi-use, flexible, and all-weather amenities into all new and redeveloped park projects to ensure year-round usability.

6.2.4 Create a Park Lighting Standards Policy based on best practices.

6.2.5 Phase future park development to align with population projections, ensuring that upgrades and new amenities are implemented proactively as the city grows (see **Figure 14**: Future Growth List for more details).



FOCUS AREA 7

7.0 Indoor Recreation Facilities

7.1 Context

Just like outdoor facilities, indoor recreation amenities and facilities are essential to supporting community well-being. They offer safe and welcoming spaces for community activities and gatherings that reduce isolation and enhance community belonging.

Facilities are each unique and are positioned strategically across the city to address city-wide, diverse community needs. Map 7.1 shows all indoor facilities in relation to SkyTrain stations and five- and ten-minute walking distances, with no major recreation facilities within walking distance of a SkyTrain station. The community centres and sports complexes are well distributed in the city centre and Queensborough, with less access in the downtown and west.

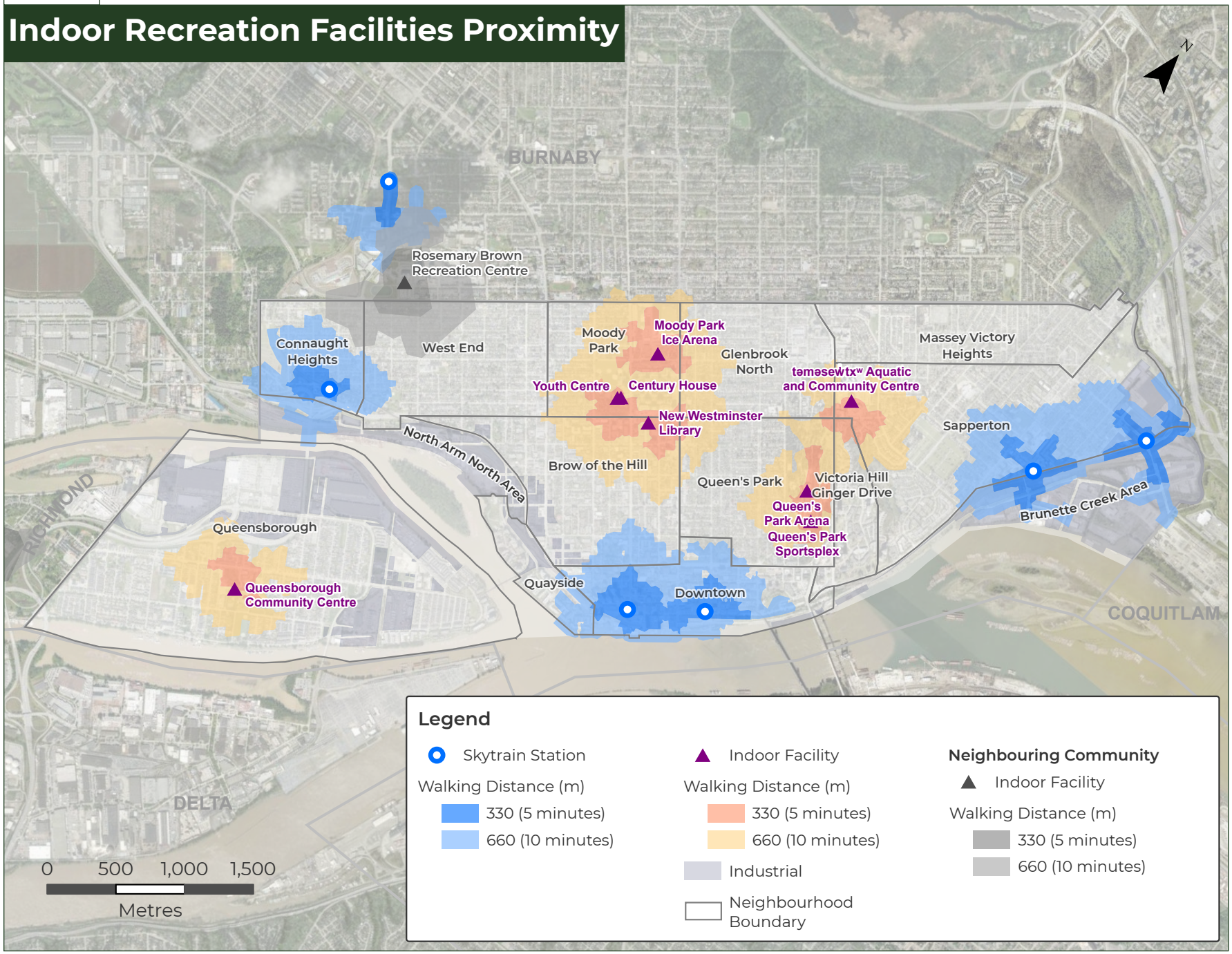
New Westminster has two main types of facilities: community hubs, which meet the social and recreation needs of many residents through diverse activities, programs, and informal gathering space (i.e., Queensborough Community Centre and təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre); and special purpose, which are purpose-built facilities that accommodate one or several specific activities (i.e., Queen's Park Sportsplex, Century House / New Westminster Youth Centre, Queen's Park Arena, and Moody Park Arena).

Facilities are at varying stages of their respective life cycles, with the large majority of engagement participants agreeing or somewhat agreeing with expanding, renewing, and optimizing indoor recreation facilities.



Map 7.1

Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity



Community Centres and Sports Complexes

Community centres and sports complexes are highly used and appreciated, with a variety of spaces hosting diverse, well-attended programs.

At the same time, there are insufficient community centres to meet residents' needs, with some requiring replacement due to age. Residents in the west and east parts of the city's mainland have less access, which may limit accessibility to equity-deserving groups. Likewise, a full-service community centre is needed in downtown, which is home to a high and expanding population. There are insufficient indoor gymnasiums overall.

Map 7.2 shows access to indoor recreation facilities by presenting the areas of New Westminster that are within a 20-minute walking distance to the four existing facilities. New facilities would serve the greatest needed where residents are beyond a 20-minute walk from a community centre, and where equity needs are high and where locations are slated for high-density growth.

Figure 7.1: Needs 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

Based on the City's needs and targets, this Plan proposes construction of one new community centre in the near future, with a second required within the 10-year timeframe of this plan (Figure 7.1). A new community centre that is approximately 2,800 square metres could include a gymnasium, fitness facility, multi-purposes rooms, and a social space, which are the amenities that are in most demand to meet community needs. Since land is in such short supply, it is assumed that new community centres will be integrated within development projects.

Century House and Youth Centre

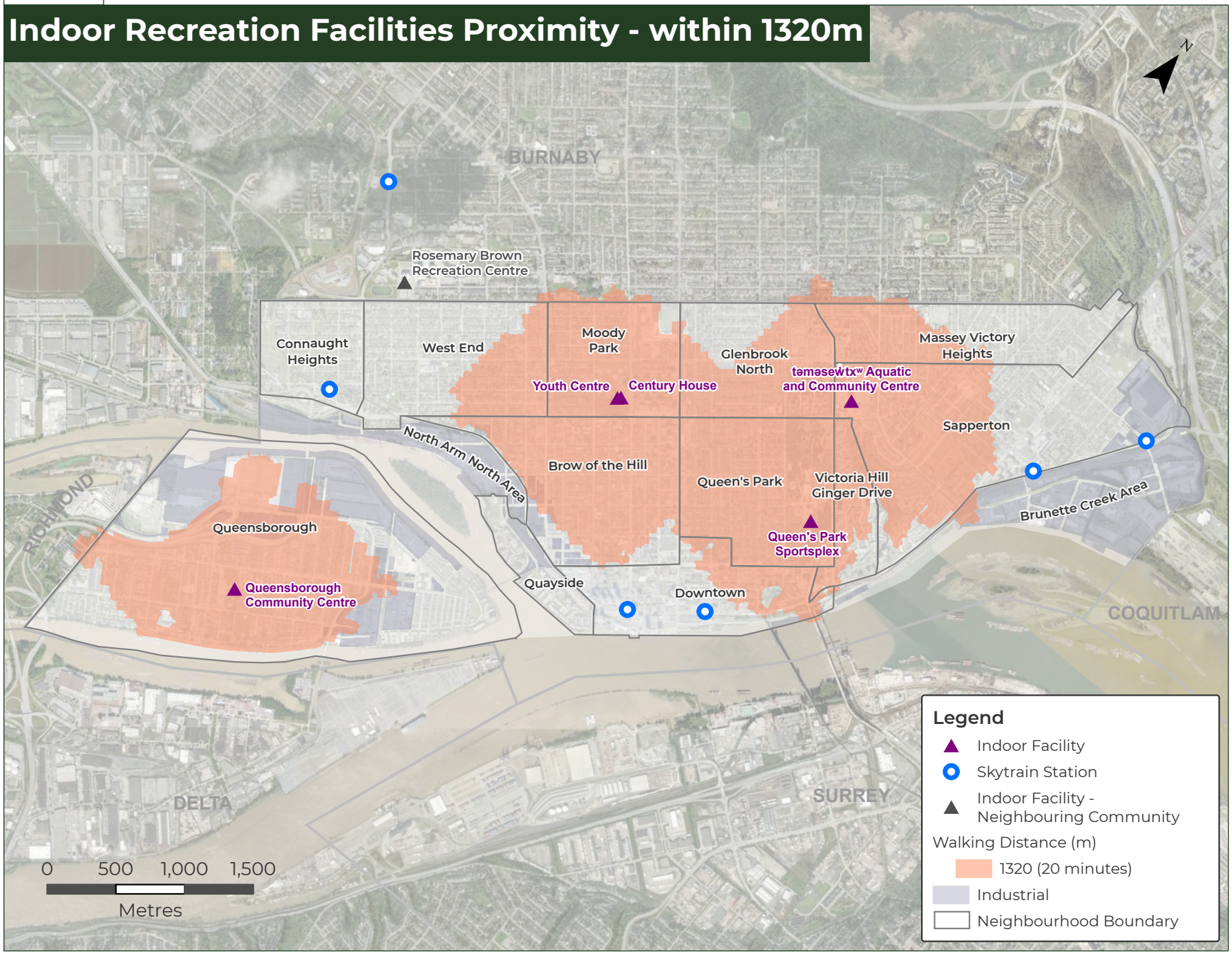
Located in Moody Park, Century House is a well-used facility that is highly appreciated for its programs and sense of community. It is 2,312 square metres and contains a small gymnasium, computer lab, fitness centre, multipurpose spaces, community living room, industrial kitchen, meeting spaces, office spaces, pottery studio, snooker room, dart room eating space, city payment services, and a youth games room.

One of the oldest municipally-run seniors centres in Canada, Century House is a destination for many 50+ people across the Lower Mainland. Programming for older adults range from socials and fitness to workshops and community meals. There are also referrals to services for vulnerable 50+ community members. Popular for its meals, the facility provides healthy lunch services five days per week as well as grab-and-go refreshments.

With the co-located youth centre extension completed in 2010, it is also an important gathering and activity space for youth. Programming for youth ranges from special events and sports to camps and leadership opportunities. Staff create a safe, welcoming space and provide consistent supervision and mentorship that empower youth to achieve self-actualization.

Map 7.2

Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity - within 1320m



Low- and no-cost activities are available, though it is challenging to set prices that are inclusive and supportive of growth. Youth would like to see free admission.

The condition of the facility has been identified as "moderate risk". Upgrades and expansion are needed in order to improve the condition and utilization of all spaces, and there is limited parking for those who drive and have mobility challenges.

Queensborough Community Centre

Located in Ryall Park, Queensborough Community Centre (QCC) is an important gathering and activity space for the community. It is 2,529 square metres and contains a small gymnasium, fitness centre, branch library, community living room, community kitchen, City payment services, six multi-purpose rooms, and two meeting rooms. Some spaces are available for rent. The facility is in good condition.

With popular programs for seniors, youth, and children, QCC offers age-diverse services including fitness, music, dance, karate, cooking, special event programs, and more. It can be challenging to meet service demands at peak hours, and there are also demands for additional programs. Some participants feel limited by costs.

təməsewtxʷ Community Centre and Aquatic Centre

təməsewtxʷ is a state-of-the-art, fully accessible, multi-purpose recreation and aquatic facility that opened in 2024. Replacing the former Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre, it is 10,644 square metres. The spaces associated with its community centre include: eight multi-purpose rooms; two meeting rooms; community gathering spaces; a tot zone; a child minding service; a YWCA child care centre (leased with the City); private rehabilitation office space (leased with the City); two fitness studios; a small gym with 350 person rentable capacity; a large gym with a 500 person rentable capacity; and space for future food services.

The spaces associated with its aquatic centre include: an eight-lane, 50-metre pool with dive tank and adjustable floor; a leisure pool with lanes, lazy river, spray features, tot zone, and gradual entry; hot tubs, a steam room and sauna. The facility features a large universal change area supplemented by two gender-specific change areas. To ensure full inclusivity, there are three accessible change rooms equipped with automated adult change tables, along with multiple accessible washroom stalls. The facility is in excellent condition.





The facility is well-used and enjoyed by residents of all ages, with new programming in high demand. Community programs and services include sports, day camps, general interest programs (e.g., preschool, cooking, etc), arts and heritage programs, fitness, and wellness. Aquatics programs and services make swimming available year-round and include drop-in, speciality swims, and registered swimming lessons.

The department is still learning about needs and opportunities, such as how to fill mid-day programming, finding uses for underutilized spaces, and addressing demands for gym programming and certain types and times of fitness classes.

Highly innovative in its energy system and use, təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre is the first zero carbon building standard aquatic facility in Canada.

Queen's Park Sportsplex

The Queen's Park Sportsplex is a gymnasium facility that opened in 2020. Replacing the former Queens' Park Arenex, it is 1,184 square metres that includes: a 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; and a universal washroom. The facility is in excellent condition.

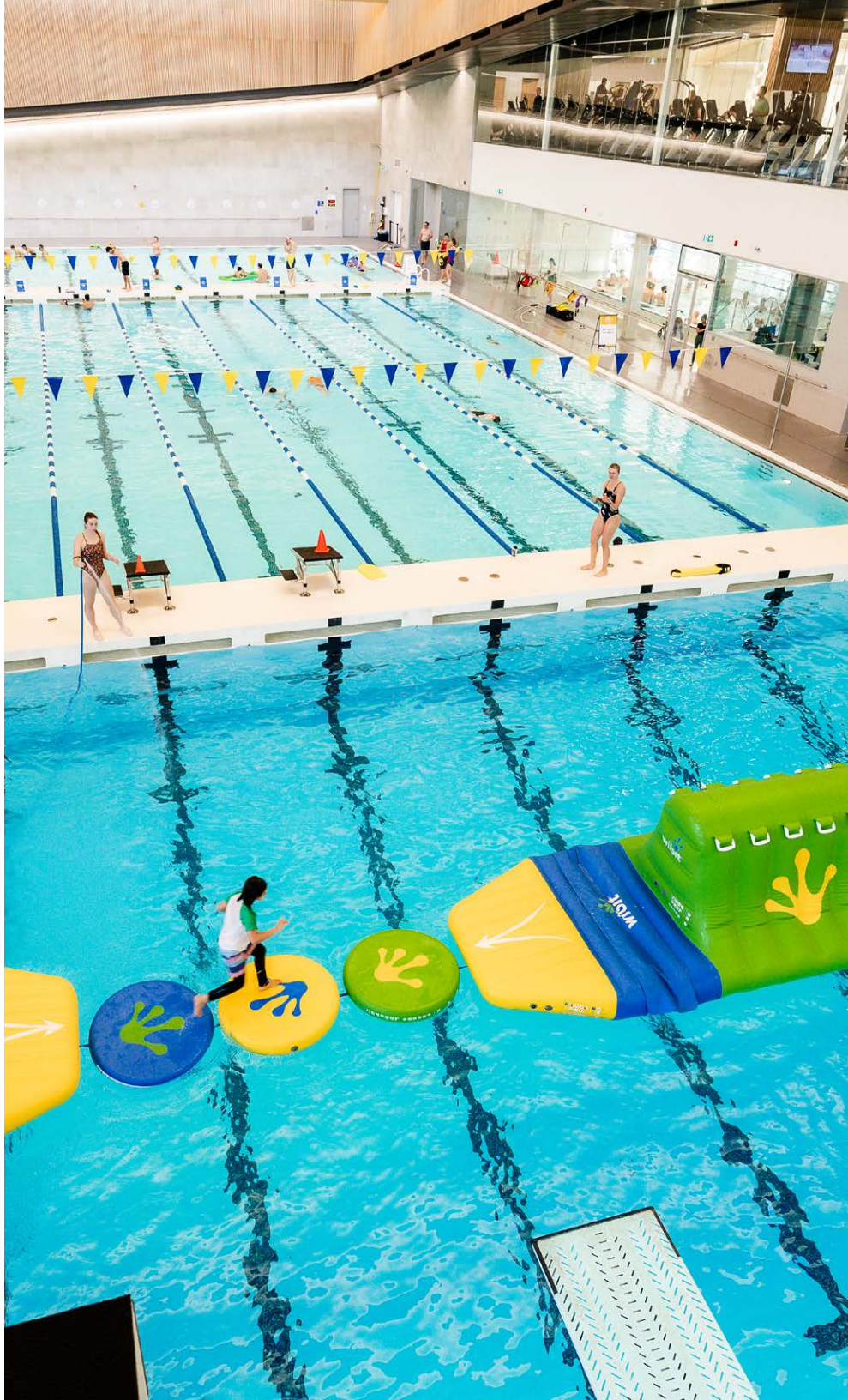
The centrally-located facility provides flexible space for a variety for sports, with services including ball hockey, volleyball, badminton, pickleball, basketball, and a high-quality gymnastics and trampoline program not typically available at public facilities. It has the potential to accommodate gym-based programs that could ease demand at other facilities.

The Queen's Park Sportsplex is fully accessible and was built to LEED Gold Standards and was the City's first net-zero carbon facility.

Aquatic Centres

New Westminster has a lower supply of aquatic centres compared with similar municipalities. However the very high quality, size, features, and central location of the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic Centre (described above) makes it a destination facility that is meeting most community aquatic needs.

A challenge is that Queensborough residents do not have good access to the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre. This Plan is looking toward long-term provision that a population threshold of **148,000** will trigger the development of an additional public aquatic centre. This Plan recommends that as the city approaches this growth milestone, the department evaluate the need for a new facility with a specific focus on a **leisure pool.** In determining the location for this future amenity, priority consideration will be given to the **Queensborough neighbourhood** or a location in proximity, ensuring that future aquatic services are distributed more equitably across the city.



Arenas

New Westminster has two arenas with seasonal ice sheets that also host dry sports, which constitutes a high supply of arenas and a comparable number of ice sheets in relation to similar communities. Situated in Moody Park and Queen's Park neighbourhoods, the arenas are moderately well distributed in the city's mainland.

The arenas provide important lacrosse, ball hockey, skating, and ice hockey facilities, and they support drop-ins, school programs, lessons, and rentals during mid-day hours. Queen's Park Arena can also generate income from larger events when available. At the same time, the arenas are older and nearing end of life in the absence of significant investment. They will be expensive to maintain or replace.

The City's Arena Strategy focuses on enhancing existing capacity rather than constructing entirely new facilities. Notably, the recent completion of a new arena in Burnaby helps serve the west part of New Westminster. The Arena Strategy specifically recommends adding a new full-sized ice sheet to Queens Park Arena as soon as 2031; and calls for long-term planning for capital upgrades to extend the useful life of the facility.

Queen's Park Arena

Queen's Park Arena has a seasonal ice sheet, which becomes a dry floor area in the spring and summer. An important venue for large spectator events, it has seating for 3,500 spectators, a concession, a multipurpose room, a meeting room, and sport and historic displays. It hosts ice hockey, lacrosse, and special events. The Arena Strategy suggests adding a second ice sheet to Queen's Park Arena beyond 2031.

Originally constructed in 1930 with an addition completed in 1948, the arena is 5,356 square metres and has significant historical value. It has been identified as "very high risk" with costly and critical capital upgrades required, including those related to accessibility in order to host users with diverse needs.



Moody Park Arena

Moody Park Arena has a seasonal ice sheet that is also used as a dry floor arena from April through June. The arena hosts highly attended skating lessons, drop-ins, and programmed ice activities, as well as a day-time hockey academy through New Westminster High School. The dry floor is important for lacrosse, and ball hockey, which has unmet demand during ice sheet season.

Constructed in 1975, Moody Park Arena has additions and renovations of an unknown age and is in "good to fair" condition, nearing the end of its useful life. It requires accessibility upgrades in order to host more diverse users such as sledge hockey. It is 2,858 square metres.

Further knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.



7.2 Goal

Expand, renew and optimize recreation facilities.

7.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 7.1: Ensure the long-term sustainability of recreation facilities.

Meeting New Westminster's recreation needs requires the effective management of existing assets.

Actions

7.1.1 In collaboration with the Engineering and Public Works department, continue to implement the City's Facility Asset Management Plan (2024) to support service levels, prioritize improvements, and inform decisions on renewal, upgrade, and growth projects.

7.1.2 Create comprehensive maintenance plans for all recreation facilities, including both preventative plans and restorative schedule for replacement of flooring, appliances, paint, minor facility upgrades, etc.

7.1.3 Proactively upgrade or replace recreation facility amenities (e.g., major equipment such as diving boards, score clocks, etc.) to maintain high service standards and user safety.

7.1.4 Prioritize accessibility enhancements, specifically the front entrance and lobby at Century House.



Objective 7.2: Respond to existing and future community needs through strategic recreation facility growth.

Meeting New Westminster's recreation needs requires both proactive improvements of existing facilities and development of new facilities.

Actions

7.2.1 Adopt a service level target of 135 square metres of community facility space per 1,000 residents (excluding pools and arenas) to guide the planning of new and expanded indoor recreation spaces.

7.2.2 Proactively upgrade and replace community recreation facilities as identified in the 10-Year Plan to ensure established service levels are met.

7.2.3 Build future capacity by strategically planning new community recreation facilities in high-growth areas to meet projected population demands. This may include lease space, dedicated space within new mixed-use or high-density developments, or colocation with other city facilities (see **Figure 14**: Future Growth List, for more details).





FOCUS AREA 8

8.0 Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability

8.1 Context

The Parks and Recreation Department manages the City's parks and recreation assets, provides programs and services to the community, and administers the financial resources of the system (Figure 8.1). In providing these essential services for all residents, the department has an important role to play in quality of life in New Westminster. Through its service mandate, the department can help deliver on City values related to community-wellbeing, reconciliation, low carbon resilience, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. In providing these services, the department must also balance broad public benefit with available resources.

Within the department, the Parks Division oversees diverse assets, programs and services, while also working closely with partners throughout the City. For example, the Parks and Recreation Department plans and implements new and renewed park assets, while the Engineering and Public Works Department is largely responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of park assets. The Parks and Recreation Department is also responsible for maintenance of public landscaped features (e.g., gardens) and manages and maintains the urban forest on City lands. Through regular coordination with the Public Works Division, the Parks Operations Division ensures levels of service for park assets are met.

The Recreation Division delivers programs and services that foster social connection and well-being and is responsible for the operation of facilities within which they reside. The division also undertakes long range facility planning and capital renewal, in partnership with the Civic Buildings and Properties Division. Guided by community input and objectives related to active living, health and fitness, and sense of belonging, the Recreation Division reviews and evolves its programs and services for ongoing improvements in support of public benefit and long-term financial sustainability.

High participation and satisfaction levels are reported by community members across Parks and Recreation's programs. Residents are highly supportive of improving upon and expanding programs and services to meet the growing population and its evolving needs, however there is interest in seeing a potential reduction in associated fees.

Asset Management

The City of New Westminster's 2024 Facilities Asset Management Plan (FAMP) establishes the corporate framework for evaluating civic facilities, including community recreation facility service levels, which guides service level outcomes for the Parks and Recreation Department. 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 (i.e., capacity versus use) and reliability (i.e., quality and reliability).

Informed by the FAMP, best practices, and review of parks and recreation facilities, amenities, programming, and services, service level elements and outcomes offer a guide for Parks and Recreation's management of assets and related decisions. See Appendix B: Context and Analysis for Service Level Elements and targets.

Figure 8.1: Service Level Table

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 current safety or accessibility issues ▪ 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
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 deserving individuals and groups served ▪ Number of special events or programs focused on reconciliation, diversity, and/or inclusion

Element	Description	Key Considerations	Indicators
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
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



The FAMP also establishes functional levels of service and technical performance measures for the City's entire asset portfolio, and should likewise guide future decision-making related to asset management and service delivery. These service attributes include functionality (i.e., accessibility, environmental sustainability), quality and reliability, and affordability (i.e., financial sustainability and efficiency).

Building on this foundation, the Parks and Recreation Department will work with an interdepartmental team to develop a Parks Asset Management Plan in 2026/2027. This plan will serve as a comprehensive roadmap for the long-term care of the park infrastructure by aligning maintenance schedules and lifecycle replacement costs with available funding. By establishing clear priorities for renewal and repair, the Parks Asset Management Plan will ensure that New Westminster's public spaces remain safe, functional, and resilient for future generations.

8.2 Programs and Services

Service Delivery Approach

The Parks and Recreation Department supports both direct and indirect provision of parks and recreation programs and services for residents and visitors. For the former, examples include the designing and delivering of programs, and designing, investing, developing, and operating parks and recreation facilities. For the latter, examples range from cost-sharing and lease agreements with community partners, to subsidized facility access fees and City staff support in strategic planning, finance, and other areas.

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. Examples include Century House, the Queensborough Community Centre, Queen's Park Sportsplex, and təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre. These and other partnerships are integral to service delivery in New Westminster.

The Parks and Recreation Department embraces several best practices in service delivery, including: highly successful blended program delivery (e.g., with City staff delivering direct programs for efficiency, and community organizations delivering programs based on location, user demand, and program area); building and operational partnerships; leveraging of online tools; tracking and monitoring organization-wide Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); and administering fees, charges, and allocations based on program costs, financial sustainability, and balancing public benefit with cost recovery. Further, the Department's **Facility Allocation Policy and Procedures** (2010) defines user groups and sets prioritization criteria for the booking of facilities and park amenities.

Direct Programs and Services

The Parks and Recreation Department delivers a compressive range of parks and recreation programs and services, which vary over time and by season. Key programs delivered directly by the City include:

- Early years and preschool programming (0-5 years)
- School age programming (5-12 years)
- Youth programming (11-18 years)
- Adult programming (16+ years)
- Seniors programming (50+ years)

All of the above include:

- Registered programs i.e., skill-based lessons (swimming, skating & gymnastics) and general interest programs (sports, fitness, cooking, science, arts and music).
- Drop-in activities (i.e., limited-capacity or walk-in daily sessions).

Adult programming also includes sports leagues, where demand for league play may exist but there are no local community-based sport organizations available to meet the need. In addition, the department offers day camps (ages 3-15 years) during winter break, spring break, summer, and School District Professional Development Days.

The City helps reduce financial barriers to participation through multiple programs. The Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program (i.e., 50% discounts for eligible residents and programs) offers low-barrier drop-in/" try-it" admission fees, and discounts for social service agency clients. The Participation Assistant Support Service provides access passes for support workers who attend with participants. Community volunteers are recruited to assist in multiple areas including recreation services, food services, seniors' activity groups, biannual tree sales, and special events.

Indirect/Supported Programs and Services

Services indirectly offered by the City are diverse and similarly support the goals of this Plan. They include: providing community organization grants to support livability and social equity; hourly childminding at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre; administering the Parks Bench Dedication Program; and facilitating access to City facilities and parks for community sports leagues and other community organizations.

Fees and Charges

The City charges user fees to help recover a portion of the costs associated with programs, facilities, and parks operations. These fees are comparable with the drop-in fees and ActivePass prices in comparable municipalities, while annual pass fees tend to be higher in New Westminster. See section 8.3 in **Appendix B**: Context and Analysis for detailed comparisons of fees across comparable municipalities.

The City of New Westminster Bylaw No. 8343 sets fees and charges for indoor and outdoor space rentals, establishes a registered program fee formula, and specifies fees for private lessons, drop-ins, and special events. Rental rates vary depending on day and time of week, as well as user group; non-profit organizations and individuals receive subsidized rates, and youth and seniors groups receive highly subsidized rates.

Likewise, program fees vary by duration, service, and by child or adult user. Program fees generally recover the direct costs associated with providing the service (i.e., instructor wages, consumable materials, room rates) whereas as the indirect costs are subsidized through general property taxation (e.g., building operations overhead costs, general department administration).

Program Analysis

Analyzing program participation levels and engaging the community offers insight into emerging local trends in parks and recreation between 2019 and 2025. These include:

- Increased registration numbers.
- Significant waitlist increase for aquatics programs, likely due to anticipation of the new pool.
- Increased youth drop-in program participation.
- A likely increase in seniors' drop-in program participation.
- Increased summer program registration, due significantly to gymnastics services and the indoor summer camp program.
- A significant number of programs running under capacity, potentially due to program quality, participant interests, scheduling, and/or program pricing.
- Some rooms not being used to maximum capacity.
- Xplor Recreation Management System not being used to its full potential, which is a missed opportunity for collecting information to support better decision-making, especially for drop-in programs.
- Seniors and youth participating primarily on a drop-in basis.

Further context for these trends and overall data analysis can be found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

8.3 Financial Sustainability

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, the City's financial capacity, and Council priorities. As a living document, the delivery of these facilities and amenities will remain flexible, allowing the City to respond to the actual pace of population growth, changing recreational trends, and evolving Council priorities. Implementation will be reaffirmed through annual budget cycles, the identification of funding sources, partnerships, and ongoing Council direction, ensuring the plan remains responsive to the community's long-term needs.

Revenue and Financing Tools

Most of the City's funds for parks and recreation operating costs are derived from departmental revenue sources and property taxes. Capital projects, which include new and renewed amenities and facilities, are funded by a combination of sources including capital reserves, government and third-party grants, and finance tools related to growth and development. These growth-related finance tools include:

- **Development Cost Charges (DCCs) –** Regulated through the Local Government Act and paid by developers during the permitting process, DCCs reflect the impact growth has on infrastructure and parks. In accordance with provincial legislation, DCCs are utilized for **land acquisition** to expand the park system and for a **limited scope of park improvements.**
- **Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs) –** A new financing tool introduced by the Province, ACCs are charges levied on new development to assist in funding **new infrastructure and facility upgrades that are outside of the DCC bylaw.** Examples include park amenities, urban park spaces, community centres, libraries, and daycares.
- **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, this tool is becoming less utilized given **the few remaining areas large enough for subdivision.**
- **Works and Services Agreements –** Required for all new development, these agreements between the City and development applicants ensure that water, sewer, electrical, transportation infrastructure (e.g., crossings, sidewalks), **street trees and public realm amenities** within and adjacent to the development site are provided or improved to meet current City standards.

Other current and potential future funding sources for parks and recreation include: third-party grants for special projects; recapturing of costs through programs and user fees; private donations or bequests; commercial revenues from business operations (e.g., facility leases, concessions); sponsorship opportunities; paid parking at high-demand parks and facilities; paid permit process for temporary construction impacts on parkland (allowed only where it is the only viable option for construction staging); partnerships; and marketing initiatives to increase visitation.



Investment Co-Benefits

Investments in the parks and recreation system generates significant co-benefits that extend beyond its core services, directly enhancing the City's financial resilience, supporting the local economy, and providing substantial cost savings. These co-benefits include:

- **Financial and economic benefits** such as: direct and indirect job creation and local business support (e.g., visitor attraction); tourism and events revenue; and community volunteering.
- **Cost savings and operational efficiency** such as: healthcare cost reduction and mental wellbeing due to opportunities for regular physical activity, time spent in nature, and social connections; structured youth engagement and pro-social programming, which directs energy toward positive and creative activities; climate resilience and infrastructure protection through provision of essential ecosystem services (e.g., green spaces acting as natural stormwater buffers and mitigate the urban heat island effect); and enhanced worker productivity (e.g., with regular physical activity improving cognitive function and reducing absenteeism).
- **Social benefits and skill building** such as: social cohesion resulting from the strong social networks and high levels of civic engagement arising from parks and recreations' gathering spaces (which in turn improves community resilience during emergencies); and workforce development due to recreation program volunteering, which enhances employability for youth and unemployed people through the expansion of transferable skills.

Knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard. Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis.

8.4 Goal

Improve and expand core services and plan for financial sustainability.

8.5 Objectives and Actions

Objective 8.1: Manage park and recreation assets.

A challenge for parks and recreation asset management is ensuring that quality and capacity keeps pace with population growth, within the context of existing service level risks associated with aging assets. Monitoring, forecasting, and ongoing and future planning can strengthen the ways in which parks and recreation assets are managed.

Actions

8.1.1 Complete the hard asset inventory and condition assessment of all park and recreation amenities and features, and define acceptable asset condition and service level standards.

8.1.2 Prepare a Parks Asset Management Plan to track department performance, forecast long-term renewal and replacement needs, and support data-driven decision-making.

8.1.3 Prepare a Recreation Major Equipment Management Plan to track department performance, forecast long-term renewal and replacement needs, and support data-driven decision-making.







Objective 8.2: Diversify and expand programs and services.

Understanding how to best diversify and expand requires that engagement is undertaken with community members who have little to no participation in existing programs and services. These underserved groups include youth, young families, and equity-deserving groups highlighted in **Focus Area 2: Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**.

Actions

8.2.1 Increase outdoor and nature-based programming, utilizing expertise in city horticulture, urban forestry, natural areas, and greenhouse operations.

8.2.2 Activate park spaces with seasonal 'pop-up' programs to provide flexible, small-scale recreational opportunities.

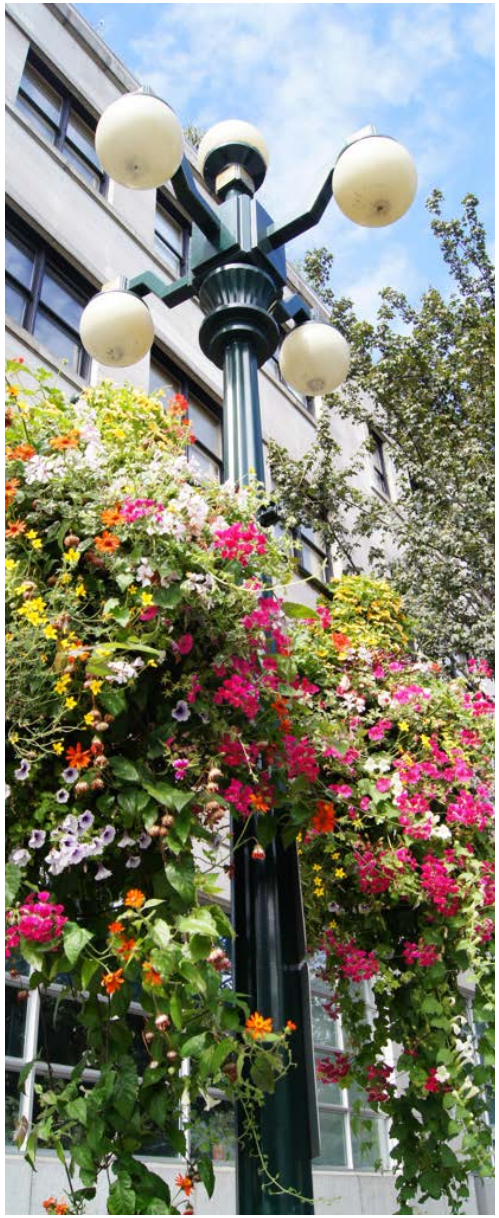
8.2.3 Expand the Facility Allocation Policy to prioritize equity, inclusion, and access goals in the use of recreation and park spaces.

8.2.4 Reimagine the Park Memorial Bench Program to include broader memorialized assets and commemorative opportunities.

8.2.5 Increase program offerings and access to underserved, prioritizing equity-seeking demographics in neighbourhoods with identified service gaps (i.e., seniors in the downtown).

8.2.6 Foster inter-departmental collaboration to maximize city-wide program activation and resources.

8.2.7 Promote food security through food-based programming and initiatives within parks and recreation facilities.



Objective 8.3: Optimize parks and recreation facility operations.

Finding efficiencies can optimize operations and, in turn, improve services and other Plan objectives. Examples of operational efficiencies include balancing programs across facilities, finding more resourceful ways to provide services (e.g., approaching food service from a city-wide level), and aligning programming with the schedules of specific demographics including underserved groups.

Actions

8.3.1 Maximize space utilization in facilities by adjusting hours, space usage, and capacity based on data-driven analysis.

8.3.2 Regularly evaluate all user and lease agreements to ensure recreation amenities are used to their full potential and community benefit is maximized.

8.3.3 Establish a Temporary Park Use Policy to guide decision-making regarding use of park space for non-park and recreation purposes.

8.3.4 Conduct service reviews of the Park Ambassador and Park Liaison Officer programs annually to enhance public safety.

8.3.5 Develop a Horticultural Standards Policy that strategically locates horticultural excellence points and hanging baskets throughout the City.

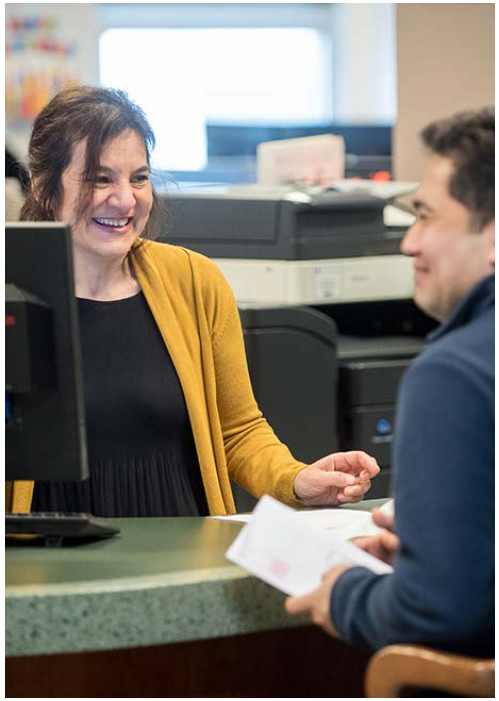
8.3.6 Create a Greenhouse Operations Strategy that focuses on sustainable best practices, partnerships, and community programming.

8.3.7 Develop a City-Wide Food Service Operations Strategy that aligns operational efficiency with food security and healthy living goals.

8.3.8 Formalize Facility Maintenance Standards and Best Practices in collaboration with the Civic Buildings and Properties division.

8.3.9 Explore feasibility of a satellite public works yard in Queensborough in conjunction with the Engineering and Public Works Department.

8.3.10 Explore co-location of Engineering Public Works and Parks Operations in one common public works yard in conjunction with the Engineering and Public Works Department.



8.3.11 Explore the feasibility of aligning Park and Open Space Maintenance (currently in the Engineering and Public Works Department) and Parks Operations (currently in the Parks and Recreation Department) into one division to enhance efficiency and consistency of service levels and standards within parks.

Objective 8.4: Optimize administrative operations and communications.

Customer service is of paramount importance for overall service excellence. Improving customer training for addressing other opportunities and barriers within administrative services can meaningfully support optimization of operations and communications.

Actions

8.4.1 Develop and implement an inclusive Parks and Recreation marketing and communication strategy designed to reach all segments of the community.

8.4.2 Improve parks and recreation administrative services to better respond to public inquiries and to reduce technological barriers to program registration and facility bookings.

8.4.3 Develop and implement administrative policies, standards, and procedures for consistency across all departmental service areas.

Objective 8.5: Evaluate projects and programs.

Data collection – including quantitative approaches as well as engaging with users and underserved populations – is important for ongoing performance monitoring, evaluation, and improvements. Working with data and best practices can also optimize decision-making and responsiveness to evolving needs and contexts.

Actions

8.5.1 Improve data collection and analysis to better inform decisions regarding programs, facilities, and resource allocation.

8.5.2 Audit park amenity performance regularly, using findings to relocate, repurpose, or upgrade underutilized features.

8.5.3 Continuously assess indoor and outdoor facilities and sport trends, integrating feedback from sport user groups to adapt plans for better access and inclusive use.



Objective 8.6: Secure funding.

Meeting the growing demands of an increasing population requires that additional funding is secured from existing sources and tools, as well as possibly new sources and tools.

Actions

8.6.1 Identify stable and dedicated funding mechanisms to support reserves for renewal of parks and recreation amenities and spaces as identified through asset management planning, and to advance new initiatives as identified in this Plan. Leverage the City's tools for financing growth through new development to deliver new parks, amenities, and facilities to help address high-need / high-growth areas of the city.

8.6.2 Explore revenue-generating and funding opportunities through public and private partnerships and sponsorships.

Objective 8.7: Manage funding.

The other side of financial sustainability is optimizing the management of parks of recreation funding. This includes leveraging existing funding, responsive operating budgets, and effective prioritization for investment.

Actions

8.7.1 Update the Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw to reflect current land values and acquisition needs to support population growth.

8.7.2 Update the Amenity Cost Charge (ACC) Bylaw to reflect future amenities and facilities to support population growth.

8.7.3 Continue to leverage City capital funds to attract and secure grant funding, maximizing the impact of City investments in parks and recreation.

8.7.4 Align operating budgets with growth, ensuring funding scales appropriately as the city acquires new parkland and constructs new facilities.



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 strong, existing partnerships. The Parks and Recreation Department currently collaborates with groups and organizations across many sectors, including but not necessarily limited to: Indigenous groups; community groups (e.g., sports organizations, clubs, residents' associations, non-government service providers); business associations and businesses; different levels of government and public bodies (i.e., First Nations, regional bodies, neighbouring municipalities, health authority, schools), and the development sector.

The Parks and Recreation Department sees an opportunity to increase collaboration in order to broaden impact. There is community interest in strengthening and expanding partnerships with the City, specifically to enhance co-delivery of services and to leverage shared resources.

Given New Westminster's significant land constraints and limited resources, building strong partnerships is essential to meeting the community's future parks and recreation needs. To maximize available space and resources, the department will pursue key collaborations. This includes partnering with School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to expand and jointly use outdoor park spaces for both community and school use. This strategy aligns with the need for a new "urban school" model for future school development, which utilizes multiple levels, smaller building footprints, rooftop playgrounds, and integration with other urban buildings / mixed-use developments.

Furthermore, the department will seek partnerships with large landholding organizations to transform underutilized land into park use. Specific opportunities exist with Metro Vancouver, TransLink, and BC Hydro to activate corridors, linear rights-of-way, and other available land for new trails, green spaces, and recreational amenities. Achieving the City's parkland supply target fundamentally requires leveraging these external partnerships.

Beyond land and infrastructure, the department will act as a catalyst by supporting community organizations to co-deliver programs and services. This involves deepening collaborations with health authorities, such as the Fraser Health Authority, to integrate recreation into broader wellness strategies that support equity-deserving and vulnerable populations. Additionally, the **department will work toward formalizing processes and establishing clear partnership policies.** This includes developing joint use agreements—particularly with School District No. 40—to ensure shared spaces meet community expectations for all-season use. Finally, achieving optimized service delivery requires strong internal collaboration between Parks and Recreation and other City departments, such as Library Services, Community Services, and Engineering, to ensure a unified approach to the community's health, well-being, and connectivity.

Knowledge and input from the community are contained in Appendix A: What We Heard**.** Further context and analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and challenges are found in Appendix B: Context and Analysis**.**

9.2 Goal

Expand community access to parks, facilities, and services through a range of partnerships that maximize resources and services.

9.3 Objectives and Actions

Objective 9.1: Strengthen existing and foster new partnerships and relationships with community groups and organizations.

Some local community groups lack the necessary resources for effective outreach and programming to meet evolving needs, while some local stewardship groups are not consistently connected with the department. Through expansion of existing community relationships and the creation of new ones, the Parks and Recreation Department can increase co-delivery of services and coordinated action toward community well-being and environmental stewardship.

Actions

9.1.1 Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new agreements that specifically serve underrepresented and equity-seeking groups.

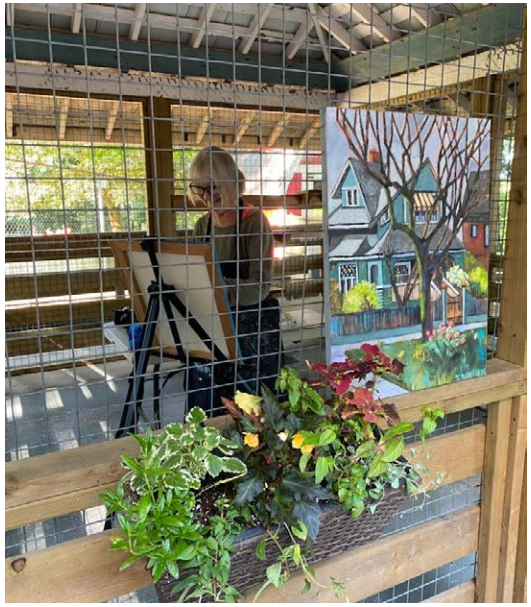
9.1.2 Support collaboration with and across sport organizations in planning for future park amenities and the utilization of facilities.

9.1.3 Establish formal agreements (including reciprocity) with private developers, businesses, and non-profits to allow public access to private spaces and programs.

9.1.4 Expand collaboration with stewardship groups and offerings for environmental education programs and nature-based programs.







Objective 9.2: Strengthen collaboration with other departments to integrate parks and recreation into broader City initiatives.

The Parks and Recreation Department collaborates with all other City departments, particularly with Community Services, Engineering Services, Social Planning, and Library Services, acknowledging the multiple influences and shared portfolios that contribute to public well-being. Successful examples include the City's Public Art Strategy and the long-term Riverfront Vision, with the latter still requiring dedicated resources and staffing capacity for its implementation.

Actions

9.2.1 Create Streetscape Design Guidelines in collaboration with Transportation staff to integrate urban park spaces into street rights-of-way.

9.2.2 Collaborate with Community Services department to develop a Parks and Open Space Activation Plan that outlines strategies for providing diverse and inclusive activities and events (including pop-up programs, regular programming, community festivals, music performances).

9.2.3 Develop a Riverfront Community Events and Activation Plan and seek opportunities to work with partners to integrate cultural representation, programs, and activations. Coordinate with the Downtown Revitalization Plan and Riverfront Vision.

9.2.4 Explore a City-operated Riverfront Office dedicated to implementing the Riverfront Vision (e.g., to oversee initiatives, major projects, operations, activations, programs, marketing, and partnerships).

9.2.5 Facilitate public art in parks and recreation facilities through the Public Art Strategy.

9.2.6 Optimize civic facility utilization by offering city-wide recreation programs at other City facilities such as Anvil Centre and New Westminster Public Libraries.



Objective 9.3: Strengthen relationships with other municipalities and administrations.

Through engagement with Metro Vancouver, neighbouring municipalities, and key organizations representing health and education, there are opportunities to expand collaborative relationships. Coordinating services across systems, jurisdictions, and municipal boundaries can reduce duplication, increase efficiencies, and offer programs and amenities that are unique in the region. Examples range from sharing facilities and connecting assets (e.g., co-locating or strengthening non-vehicular connections between community facilities and city parks) to coordinating services across municipal boundaries and regional planning (e.g., connecting and expanding natural corridors and park space).

Actions

9.3.1 Align collaboratively with School District 40 on formalizing joint use agreements for outdoor spaces, indoor spaces, and shared programming.

9.3.2 Expand inter-municipal planning and operations of major recreation facilities and park assets.



10.0 Implementation



10.1 Context

People, Parks, and Play is a living document and a proactive guide for the future of parks and recreation in New Westminster. It provides the strategic goals, objectives, and actions needed to navigate growth through 2035, with a vision to 2050, ensuring that as the city grows denser, the commitment to the health and well-being of residents also grows.

Implementing this Plan is a collaborative effort led by the Parks and Recreation Department. Each action is designed to be agile, allowing the department to respond to emerging trends and shifting population needs while staying rooted in the Plan's foundational lenses: Reconciliation, Equity, and Low Carbon Resilience.

10.2 Funding and Financing

Implementing the Plan requires a dual focus on Capital Investment and Operational Sustainability.

- **Total Capital Estimate:** Approximately $127.2 million is needed to fund the 10-year Implementation Plan. This estimate is based on 2026 valuation and is subject to change with future market fluctuations. Currently, $63.6 million is identified in the 2026–2030 Five-Year Financial Plan, with the remaining $63.6 million slated for integration into future budget cycles. Parkland acquisition costs are not included within the following calculations as their costs are tied to variable land price.

Capital Investment	Short Term 2026–2030	Med Term 2030–2035	Long Term 2036 +	Total
Total Parks and Recreation Capital	$63,662,266	$63,489,734	TBD	$127,151,960

- **Funding Tools:** The City utilizes a diverse toolkit, including property taxes, users fees and charges, reserve funds, and grants to fund both operations and capital project costs. Key growth-funding tools include Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for land acquisition and basic park infrastructure and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs) for capital projects like recreation facilities and more specialized park amenities.

Operating Budget	Parks and Recreation		Parks	Recreation	Admin
Revenue	-36%	(8,656,000)	(127,000)	(8,110,000)	(419,000)
Salaries / Benefits / Training	92%	22,206,000	5,209,000	14,426,000	2,571,000
Operating Expense	12%	2,994,000	341,000	2,067,000	586,000
Amortization	32%	7,619,000	2,365,000	5,254,000	-
Net Annual Operating Budget	**100%**	**24,163,000**	**7,788,000**	**13,637,000**	**2,738,000**

- **Operating Costs:** The 2026 net operating budget is $24.1 million. For future years, this must scale alongside the public's expectations for services and new capital projects to ensure parks and recreation facilities are effectively maintained and activated.

10.3 Action Plan

As a high-level strategic document, the 10-year implementation plan provides direction rather than specific final budgets or detailed designs. This Plan is structured to include goals, objectives, and actions for each focus area. The actions are categorized by type:

- Policy, Planning and Design
- Capital Projects
- Programs and Services
- Land Acquisition

The actions will be implemented on an ongoing basis or phased according to the following timelines, reaffirmed through annual budget cycles and ongoing community engagement:

- **Ongoing:** Sustained action integrated into operations and service delivery.
- **Short-Term:** to be initiated and/or advanced within a 0–5 year time frame.
- **Medium-Term:** to be initiated and/or advanced within a 6–10 year time frame.
- **Long-Term:** to be initiated and/ or advanced in 10+ years.

To balance immediate needs with long-term financial sustainability, the Plan distinguishes between current and future needs for capital projects:

- **Current Community Needs** (gap analysis to "catch up"): The 10-Year Implementation Plan captures the key capital projects required to meet existing parks and recreation deficits in the immediate and near-term.
- **Growth Requirements** (future list to "keep up"): Forecasted key capital projects driven by population growth are identified within **People, Parks, and Play**. This future growth list will enable the City to utilize financing growth tools such as Development Cost Charges (DCCs) and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs) while maintaining the operational flexibility to adjust specific projects as rates of population growth, trends, and needs evolve over time. Because this plan is designed to be flexible, the work can be scaled up or down based on actual population growth.

The Plan identifies 29 objectives and 113 actions (**Figure 10**, **Figure 11** and **Appendix 3 10-Year Implementation Plan** for complete Implementation Plan).

Figure 10: Action Count by Focus Area

#	Focus Area	Objectives Count	Actions Count
1	Reconciliation	3	12
2	Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	2	13
3	Low Carbon Resilience	3	8
4	Parks and Open Spaces	4	10
5	Connectivity	3	10
6	Park Amenities and Facilities	2	8
7	Indoor Recreation Facilities	2	7
8	Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability	7	33
9	Collaboration and Partnerships	3	12
Total Objectives and Actions		**29**	**113**

Figure 11: Legend for Actions Table

Action Type	Timeline
(PPD) Policy, Planning + Design	**Ongoing:** Integrated into operations and service delivery
(CP) Capital Projects	**Short-Term:** 0–5 years
(PS) Programs + Services	**Medium Term:** 6–10 years
(LA) Land Acquisition	**Long-Term:** 10+ years

10.3.1 Monitoring Progress

To ensure transparency and accountability, the Parks and Recreation Department will track progress annually, with a formal Progress Report provided every four years or as needed. Success will be measured by the department's ability to meet the diverse and growing community needs identified through the detailed analysis and subsequent goals, objectives, and actions listed in the 10-Year Implementation Plan. By following this roadmap, the City remains focused on two primary outcomes: Catching Up, which involves addressing current community needs and closing existing service gaps, and Keeping Up, which focuses on proactively planning for the requirements of future growth.

While the Plan includes a range of quantitative targets, the Department will also track progress qualitatively across the nine focus areas. The qualitative measures will leverage user surveys, staff evaluations, and informal community input to assess how effectively parks and recreation services reach underserved demographics and to gauge the depth of community connection and belonging among residents.

The following examples demonstrate how progress will be monitored across the Plan's focus areas with quantitative and qualitative indicators (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: Performance Indicators

Focus Area	Measure (Example)
1. Reconciliation	Number of programs and initiatives developed in partnership with Indigenous Peoples or organizations that support cultural storytelling, expression, and the sharing of traditional knowledge. Context: Aligns with the goal to advance reconciliation through authentic collaboration and the weaving of cultural expressions into facilities and public spaces.
2. Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Location, type, and effects of universal design and barrier-reduction initiatives implemented. Context: Tracks how site-specific audits and partnerships result in tangible changes, such as neuro-diverse-friendly programming or RHFAC-certified upgrades.
3. Low Carbon Resilience	Location, type, and effects of nature-based solutions and climate adaptation features integrated into new and renewed park projects as well as energy-efficient GHG reduction measures within new/ renewed recreation facilities. Context: Measures effectiveness of construction standards that reduce carbon while providing refuges, such as misting stations and enhanced tree canopies.
4. Parks and Open Spaces	Progress toward achieving established service levels (2.0 ha total / 1.0 ha active per 1,000 residents) and the 5-minute walk proximity target. Context: This includes reporting on the securing of air-space parcels, rooftops, and transformation of underutilized lands or road reallocations in high-density areas (like downtown and the west) where traditional land purchase is not feasible.
5. Connectivity	Progress on closing gaps within the mainland east-west riverfront corridor and along the Queensborough perimeter trail. Context: Measures success in advancing the Riverfront Vision and enhancing accessibility to the water for a continuous, uninterrupted experience.

Focus Area	Measure (Example)
6. Park Amenities and Facilities	Location and type of amenities added or improved, with priority given to areas with identified deficits. Context: Uses gap analysis to track the delivery of prioritized capital projects in areas like downtown and the west where service levels lag behind needs.
7. Indoor Recreation Facilities	Progress on planning, design, and delivery of new and renewed indoor facility space relative to the Plan and population milestones. Context: Focuses on proactive upgrades to meet standards and securing innovative spaces (like lease or co-located spaces) to accommodate growth.
8. Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability	Track the expansion of diverse and inclusive program offerings (e.g., nature-based, seasonal "pop-up," and equity-seeking demographics). Context: Tracks how services reflect changing needs, including outdoor horticultural expertise and targeted services for underserved groups like downtown seniors.
9. Collaboration and Partnerships	Number of new partnership agreements formalized each year and the diversity of the populations they serve. Context: Tracks agreements with equity-seeking groups and organizations that support programs for those who need them most.

By monitoring these metrics, New Westminster can remain agile and responsive. This data-driven approach ensures that as the city grows, we continue to provide a park and recreation system that is equitable, resilient, and, above all, brings a sense of community connection and belonging for every resident.

10.4 Planning for Future Growth

In 2024, Metro Vancouver prepared the following regional growth scenarios for New Westminster, providing the context of continued population increases through to 2050.

Scenario	2021	2030	2040	2050
Lower Growth Scenario	82,940	106,020	124,380	135,660
Higher Growth Scenario	82,940	107,080	129,720	148,500

Source: Metro Vancouver Growth Projections, 2024

Based on the Higher Growth Scenario, which the City uses for long-range amenity and service planning, New Westminster is projected to reach a population of 148,500 by 2050. This represents an increase of approximately 65,500 new residents over the 30-year period.

To inform the immediate 10-year implementation window, the City uses the more granular City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024–2049 (Coriolis, 2025). The High Scenario from this study was used to analyze parkland supply and identify necessary amenities across the City's four districts. The City is preparing for up to 116,345 residents by 2034, representing potential growth of 25,546 people. (**Figure 13**).

Figure 13: Future Population Estimates by District

Area	2024 Population Estimate	2034 Population Estimate	Projected Growth (10 Yr)
West	30,427	38,177	+7,750
East	30,427	36,558	+6,131
Downtown	17,232	25,598	+8,366
Queensborough	12,713	16,012	+3,299
Total	**90,799**	**116,345**	**+25,546**

Source: City of New Westminster Population and Housing Forecast 2024 – 2049 (Coriolis, 2025)

The distribution of this growth is as follows:

- 34% within downtown
- 10% within Queensborough
- 56% distributed throughout the remainder of the city

To address these projections, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a Future Growth List—a proactive planning tool based on comparative analysis, best practices, and community input, as well as detailed analysis of population milestones and current service gaps. While this list informs the long-term strategy, it remains distinct from the immediate 10-Year Implementation Plan.

The Future Growth List provides a roadmap for future investment, and it is intended to remain flexible and adaptive. The delivery of these items is threshold-based; these projects will only be initiated as actual growth occurs. This enables the department to continuously evaluate changing recreation trends, evolving technologies, and Council priorities to deliver what the community requires at the appropriate time. All projects will be reaffirmed through annual budget cycles, available funding, equity needs in the city's districts, and ongoing Council direction.

The department has identified the following capital projects (**Figure 14**) based on the City's growth analysis using the high-growth population scenario in **Figure 13**.

By identifying these potential needs now, the Parks and Recreation department can better leverage growth-funding tools—such as Development Cost Charges (DCCs) and Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs)—while maintaining the operational flexibility to refine specific project designs and locations through ongoing community engagement and needs analysis.

Figure 14: Future Growth List

Facility/ Amenity	0-5 Years (~106,000 Residents)	6-10 Years (~116,000 Residents)	10+ Years (~148,000 Residents)
Playground	5	5	5
Sport Court	4	4	1
Artificial Turf Field	-	1	2
Covered Multi-Sport Box	-	1	1
All-Wheel Park	-	1	1
Water Play Area	1	1	-
Community Garden	3	1	-
Dog Off-Leash Area	1	1	-
Picnic Shelter	2	1	-
Park Trails	tbd	tbd	tbd
Urban Park Spaces (TOA's and high-growth areas)	5	5	5
Disc-Golf Course	1	-	-
Community Centre (inclusive of spaces for gymnasium, fitness, child care, and multi-purpose space)	-	1	2
Arena (Ice Sheet/ Dry Floor)	1	-	-
Aquatic Facility (with small leisure pool)	-	-	1



Appendix 1

Summary of Community Engagement

People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What we heard summary
Engagement round 1, September 2024



Project overview

The City of New Westminster is updating its Parks and Recreation Plan! The renewed Plan is named *People, Parks and Play: Connections for All*, highlighting the essential role that parks and recreation play in building connected, healthy, resilient communities. To guide development of the Plan, the City conducted a comprehensive engagement process from April to June 2024. The plan will guide future priorities and investments in parks and recreation facilities, services, and programs for the next 10 years, while also describing a future vision to 2050.

Timeline

Spring 2024
Engagement round 1

Fall 2024
Draft recommendations

Spring 2024/25
Engagement round 2

Summer 2025
Anticipated completion of final Plan

Promotion and outreach:

Web page

Survey promoted to 4,075 Be Heard New West subscribers

Press release

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

Email

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

Interactive signage

Signage installed in key community locations with QR codes

E-receipts

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

Social media

10 social media posts, receiving 29,333 impressions

What we did

Indigenous engagement

26 Engagement Invites
2 Soup & Bannock sessions
10 participants

Youth drop-ins

6 locations
376 participants

Engagement activities

Workshops

5 sessions
27 individuals and organizations

Pop-ups

8 pop-ups
1,237 participants

Survey

612 respondents

Learnings summary - Indigenous engagement

Indigenous engagement consisted of two Soup and Bannock sessions, with 10 participants. Invites were sent to 26 Indigenous organizations and representatives, as well as six local First Nations. Invitations were also extended to the 95 registered users on Be Heard New West who self-identify as Indigenous.

Themes and opportunities

Cultural representation and inclusion

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

Accessibility, engagement, and education

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

Collaboration and support

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

Five ideas from participants to advance reconciliation

1. Create opportunities for Indigenous people to steward a food forest area
2. Create Indigenous medicine spaces
3. Local parks as storytelling place to serve the Indigenous population
4. Offer free passes to Indigenous students to access park and recreation services.
5. Collaborate with schools on offering a local Nation language program.

People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What we heard summary
Engagement round 1, September 2024



Learnings summary - youth drop-ins

What youth like

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

What youth dislike

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

What to add in the future...

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



Learnings summary - workshops

The project team hosted five workshops, inviting interested groups and organizations to take part in facilitated discussions. A total of 147 individuals participated.

Strengths

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

Challenges

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

Vision: Top five priorities

1. Welcome people of all cultures, ages, and abilities
2. Offer affordable and accessible options
3. Provide multi-use and flexible indoor and outdoor spaces
4. Keep up with population growth and community demand
5. Increase number and diversity of programs



People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What we heard summary
Engagement round 1, September 2024

Learnings summary - pop-ups

Outdoor parks and recreation

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

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

What people dislike:

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

Indoor recreation

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

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

What people dislike:

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

POP-UP PHOTOS







Barriers to parks and recreation

Information (e.g. not knowing about programs or events)

Physical barriers (e.g. facilities are inaccessible for all ages and abilities)

Technology (e.g. limited offline registration options)

Geography (e.g. living too far away from facilities)

Ideas for the future

Expanded programming

Recreation facility improvements

Cultural and educational opportunities

Accessibility and maintenance

People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What we heard summary
Engagement round 1, September 2024



Learnings summary - survey

Outdoor parks and recreation

- **90%** Run, jog, or walk on park trails or paths
- **90%** Visit parks to eat, sit, play, or otherwise
- **70%** Attend outdoor festivals or special events

Indoor recreation

- **60%** Do swimming lessons and/or drop-in
- **46%** Do fitness programs and/or drop-in
- **30%** Do skating lessons and/or drop-in

Respondents are most **satisfied** with...

- Major parks (68%)
- Garden displays and maintenance (68%)
- Hanging basket displays and programs (63%)

Respondents are most **dissatisfied** with...

- Public washrooms and change rooms in parks (32%)
- Concessions (25%)
- Safe places to bike or wheel off roads (20%)

Respondents are most **satisfied** with...

- Swimming drop-in (31%)
- Fitness programs (28%)
- Skating drop-in (27%)

Respondents are most **dissatisfied** with...

- Swimming lessons (26%)
- Swimming drop-in (16%)
- Fitness programs (15%)

Barriers to accessing parks and recreation:

- Public washroom access (30%)
- Parking access (26%)
- Not enough waste receptacles (26%)

- Timing of programs is inconvenient (23%)
- Not enough time available to participate (21%)
- Insufficient vehicle parking nearby (19%)







Learnings summary - survey

Administration services

Participants shared their satisfaction and dissatisfaction on six areas:

Satisfied	Response	Dissatisfied
53%	Customer service	**5%**
44%	Communications	**13%**
35%	Fees and charges	**13%**
32%	Registration processes	**22%**
23%	Booking processes	**9%**
20%	Financial assistance program and participation support services	**6%**

Top five ideas and desires for the future

1. New, varied, or updated sports facilities
2. Green spaces and non-sports park space
3. Community and gathering spaces
4. All-weather and covered facilities
5. Accessibility



1. Sports programs and facilities
2. Swimming facilities and programs
3. Fitness classes and programs
4. Recreation and community centres
5. Accessible schedules and programs



People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What We Heard Summary
Engagement Round 2, April 2025



Project overview

The City of New Westminster is updating its Parks and Recreation Plan! The renewed Plan is named *People, Parks, and Play: Connections for All*, highlighting the essential role that parks and recreation play in building connected, healthy, resilient communities. To guide development of the Plan, the City conducted two comprehensive engagement phases. Round 1 was held in Spring of 2024 and round 2 in Spring of 2025. Round 2 builds on findings from round 1. The primary objective of round 2 engagement was to communicate the initial findings from round 1 engagement and further refine the community's direction for the Parks and Recreation Plan. In each round of engagement, the City prioritized gathering input from vulnerable, marginalized, and underserved groups.

Timeline

Spring 2024
Engagement round 1

Fall 2024
Draft recommendations

Spring 2025
Engagement round 2

Summer/Fall 2025
Anticipated completion of final plan

What we did

Survey
190 participants

Engagement activities

Pop-ups
7 Pop-ups
655 participants

Promotion and outreach:

Email

Emails were sent through Citypage (email newsletter) and to Be Heard subscribers. Representatives of identified interest groups were contacted directly by email.

Interactive signage

Posters were installed at key parks and recreation facilities in New Westminster. QR codes on signage enabled passersby to quickly access the project website.

Social media

Graphic and text information about opportunities to participate in engagement were shared through the City's Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram accounts.

Project web page

A central project page was hosted on Be Heard New West, which provided information on the project as well as a link to the online survey.

People, parks, and play!

Parks and Recreation Plan Update
What We Heard Summary
Engagement Round 2, April 2025



Learnings summary

High levels of agreement across all draft strategic directions *(more detail on page 8)*

Pop-ups	
86%	Agree
11%	Somewhat agree
1%	Neutral

Survey	
78%	Agree
16%	Somewhat agree
3%	Neutral

Open answer comments - key themes

Pop-ups

- **Facility & program improvements** (e.g. expand adult-oriented recreation options)
- **Accessibility & connectivity** (e.g. improving trail connectivity)
- **Equity & inclusion** (e.g. reducing financial barriers)
- **Sustainability** (e.g. expanding community gardens)

Online survey

- **Accessibility & connectivity** (e.g. create comfortable navigation through spaces)
- **Investing in parks and recreation facilities**
- **Equitable connectivity** (e.g. accessible connections to parks and recreation)
- **Cultural programming** (e.g. diverse cultural festivals)

Focussed discussions themes

The project team conducted **four focus group sessions** with key stakeholders to discuss the strategic directions and gather feedback. These groups included: School District 40, community groups (non-sport), local Indigenous serving organizations, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The discussions yielded detailed feedback across four key themes:

Planning for future population growth



Equitable and accessible spaces



Inclusive programming



Formalize partnerships and relationships



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Appendix 2

Parkland Classification Table

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
City Park	Grimston Park	2.69
	Hume Park	11.04
	Mercer Stadium	2.49
	Moody Park	9.64
	Park Space C	0.55
	Queen's Park	30.29
	Ryall Park/Queensborough Community Centre	7.59
	Sapperton Landing Park	3.13
	Sapperton Pump Station Plaza	0.31
	Westminster Pier Park	1.42
Community Park	Old School House Park	1.25
	Port Royal Park	1.84
	Quayside Park	0.09
	Sapperton Park	2.01
	Simcoe Park	1.53
	Terry Hughes	2.34
	Westburnco Sports Courts	2.56

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Green Space / Nature Park	BC Penitentiary Cemetery	0.12
	Basran Avenue Boulevard	0.07
	Carter St Foreshore Park	0.19
	City Hall / Friendship Gardens	2.50
	Clinton Place Park	0.36
	Connaught Village Green	0.11
	Curling Club Grounds	0.15
	Dunwood Place Park	0.14
	Eleventh Street Triangle	0.08
	Fifth Street Boulevard 300 Block	0.23
	Fifth Street Boulevard 400 Block	0.19
	Fifth Street Boulevard 500 Block	0.19
	Firehall No 1	0.20
	Fraser/Church of England Cemetery	2.03
	Fraser/Church of England Lawn Section Cemetery	1.10
	Fraser/Masonic Cemetery	0.51
	Fraser/Oddfellows Cemetery	1.81
	Gateway Park (Sapperton Triangle)	0.41
	Glenbrook Ravine	11.35

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Green Space / Nature Park (continued)	Glenbrooke Dr Sixth Ave Boulevard	0.02
	Irving House and Historical Museum	0.16
	Jackson Crescent Triangle	0.13
	Lookout Park	0.30
	Massey Theatre	0.16
	McBride Eighth Ave Boulevard	0.02
	McBride Tenth Ave Triangle	0.05
	McKay Triangle	0.03
	Moody Park Arena Grounds	0.10
	Mott Crescent Triangle	0.22
	NWSS Memorial Grounds	0.62
	Old Fraser Cemetery	1.79
	Quayside McGuiness Triangle	0.07
	Queensborough Fire Hall	0.15
	Sangster Place Triangle	0.16
	Second Street Boulevard 100 Block	0.06
	Second Street Boulevard 200 Block	0.11

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Green Space / Nature Park (continued)	Second Street Boulevard 300 Block	0.11
	Second Street Boulevard 400 Block	0.09
	Second Street Boulevard 500 Block	0.09
	Second Street Boulevard 600 Block	0.00
	St Marys Hospital Royal Ave Bank	0.08
	St. Peters Catholic	1.85
	Stewardson Sixteenth St Triangle	0.02
	Stewardson Thirteenth St Triangle	0.19
	Sunset Park	0.07
	Sunset Park Maintenance Area	0.10
	Victoria Hill Park	0.68
	West Side Off Leash Dog Area	0.60
	Westend Firehall No 2	0.01
	Winthrop Triangle	0.04
	Woodlands Memorial Garden	1.03
	stal'əw̓asəm (Riverview) Bridge Public Realm	4.82

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Linear Park	Agnes St Greenway	0.59
	Brunette Fraser Greenway	1.89
	Crosstown Greenway	0.35
	Esplanade	0.03
	Ewen Ave Greenway	1.55
	London St Greenway	0.03
	Park Space A	0.11
	Port Royal Riverfront Walk (Dyke Trail)	0.37
	Quayside Esplanade	0.54
	Queensborough Landing Pier	1.70
	Queensborough Perimeter Trail	0.67
	Stanley St 1	0.29
	Stanley St. Greenway	1.00
	Waterfront Esplanade	2.10
	West Boundary Path	1.01

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Neighbourhood Park	824 Agnes St Park	0.08
	Albert Crescent Park	1.99
	Brewery District Park 1	0.15
	Connaught Heights Park	0.64
	Cornwall Park	0.08
	Park Space B	0.16
	Redboat Park	0.17
	Riverside Adventure Park	0.74
	Saint Mary's Park	0.25
	Sinclair Park	0.13
	Sukh Sagar Park	0.17
	Sullivan Park	0.33
	The Great Lawn	2.39
	Thompson's Landing Park	1.31
	Tipperary Park	2.06
	Toronto Place Park	0.20
	Victory Heights Park	0.16

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
Urban Park	400 Fourteenth St	0.09
	Begbie Place/Plaza	0.18
	Boundary Rd Pump Station Plaza	0.14
	Brewery District Park 2	0.12
	Brewery District Park 3	0.09
	Fourth St. Stairs	0.03
	Fourth St. Stairs and Flex Space	0.10
	Hyack Square	0.12
	Library Square	0.07
	Metro Van Park	0.26
	Sapperton Plaza	0.08
	South Dyke Lookout 1	0.01
	South Dyke Lookout 2	0.01
	St. Barnabas Parklet	0.00
	Telus Plaza	0.01
	Uptown Plaza	0.05
	təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre	1.09

Classification	Park Name	Area (ha)
School Site Open Space	Connaught Heights Elementary	0.54
	Douglas College	0.54
	Ecole Fraser River Middle	0.55
	FW Howay Elementary	1.36
	Glenbrook Middle	0.02
	Herbert Spencer Elementary	0.93
	Hume Park School	0.13
	Justice Institute of BC	2.43
	Lord Kelvin Elementary	0.72
	Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary	1.36
	NWSS Memorial Grounds	2.53
	New Westminster Secondary	0.78
	Qayqayt Elementary	0.71
	Queen Elizabeth Elementary	1.13
	Queensborough Middle	1.20
	Skwo:wech Elementary School	1.16



Appendix 3

10-Year Implementation Plan

Type	**PPD** Policy, Planning + Design	**CP** Capital Projects	**PS** Programs + Services	**LA** Land Acquisition
Timeline	**O** Ongoing	**S** Short-Term	**M** Medium Term	**L** Long-Term

1 Reconciliation

Goal

Advance reconciliation through authentic collaboration, cultural integration, and equitable access for Indigenous Peoples.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1.1: Establish, nurture, and maintain reciprocal relationships with Indigenous partners and communities.

1.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
1.1.1	Engage meaningfully with Indigenous communities in all aspects of parks and recreation planning, design, and management.	PPD	O
1.1.2	Formalize protocols for engaging with Indigenous communities, recognizing that there are variances in ways of collaborating and conducting business among different Nations and Indigenous communities.	PPD	S
1.1.3	Gauge interest from Host Nations in a range of collaboration opportunities for the future of the Westminster Pier Park fire site, Muni-Evers Park, and other riverfront initiatives, acknowledging their traditional and contemporary connections with the Fraser River.	PPD	S

Objective 1.2: Weave Indigenous knowledge and culture throughout parks and recreation spaces and services, in partnership with First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples.

1.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
1.2.1	Work collaboratively with and learn from First Nation and Indigenous communities to create holistic, equitable, and sustainable plans and policies.	PPD	O
1.2.2	Weave Indigenous stories, cultural expressions, traditional uses, and safe spaces for practicing culture into facilities, parks, and other public spaces.	PPD	O

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1.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
1.2.3	Respectfully and authentically integrate Indigenous knowledge in major planning and program initiatives where possible.	PPD	O
1.2.4	Foster a deeper community-wide understanding of local Indigenous cultures, ways of knowing, and history. This history includes colonization and trauma, as well as the resilience, rich traditions, and generational knowledge that continue to endure in Indigenous communities.	PPD	O
1.2.5	Introduce Indigenous-led programs, with a focus on Elders and youth that support cultural practices and knowledge-sharing.	PS	O
1.2.6	Integrate Indigenous plants and ecological knowledge with Nation(s)-approved interpretive signage in parks and open spaces, recognizing the diversity of dialects to be considered.	PPD	O
1.2.7	Update the park and facility naming policy to support truth, reconciliation, and decolonization.	PPD	S

Objective 1.3: Advance Indigenous access to and inclusion in services and programs.

1.3 Actions		Type	Timeline
1.3.1	Explore and implement options for subsidized recreation passes specifically for Indigenous residents. Promotion should be done through Indigenous-serving organizations. Consider self-identification for facility access passes, eliminating the barrier of acquiring status cards for some Indigenous residents.	PPD	S
1.3.2	Hire Indigenous staff, particularly in leadership positions, to lead programs and participate in planning and decision-making.	PS	O

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2 Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

Goal



Advance equity, inclusion, and accessibility by removing barriers, enhancing opportunities, and supporting community well-being.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 2.1: Identify and reduce barriers to equitable access.

2.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
2.1.1	Integrate equity as a guiding principle in all policy and plans. These should be developed in early meaningful partnership with communities most impacted by systemic inequities.	PPD	O
2.1.2	Apply an equity lens to program design and service delivery in collaboration with equity-seeking groups.	PS	O
2.1.3	Evaluate the effectiveness of and opportunities to expand access to the Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program.	PPD	S
2.1.4	Educate and empower staff with the necessary skills to support accessibility (e.g., support for neuro-diverse individuals and people with physical disabilities), as well as culturally sensitive and trauma-informed practices.	PS	O
2.1.5	Apply universal design guidelines and engage people with lived experience in all planning and design. Build new and renewed facilities to meet or exceed the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) program.	PPD	O
2.1.6	Develop and renew outdoor play spaces to include diverse, accessible, and high-quality recreational opportunities for all ages.	PPD	O
2.1.7	Conduct site-specific barrier audits (with priority given to outdoor spaces) and implement strategies to meet the access needs of all user groups, particularly seniors and people with disabilities.	PPD	S

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2.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
2.1.8	Clearly communicate accessibility information (e.g., plain language, descriptive images, Braille, and universally recognized symbols) across all platforms (e.g., online, guides, facilities and parks).	PPD	S
2.1.9	Recruit, retain, and empower staff, volunteers, and leadership to build a workforce and leadership that reflect the diverse community that parks and recreation serves.	PS	O

Objective 2.2: Enhance capacity and resources to support community well-being and inclusion programs.

2.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
2.2.1	Continue to support and participate in the City's Crisis Response Pilot Project to proactively address the challenges of homelessness, mental health, and substance use with compassion.	PS	O
2.2.2	Proactively plan for amenities and programming for youth, engage youth in planning, and incorporate youth input in the design process.	PPD	O
2.2.3	In partnership with community groups, continue to leverage facilities and programs that strengthen community resilience (e.g., emergency preparedness, food security, and social cohesion).	PS	O
2.2.4	Continue to maintain a balance in the variety of outdoor spaces and amenities to satisfy diverse interests (e.g., structured, formal and informal play/sport, nature-based recreation).	CP	O

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3 Low Carbon Resilience

Goal

Integrate low carbon resilience into design, planning, operations, and support responses to climate emergencies.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 3.1: Integrate mitigation in planning, design, and operations.

3.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
3.1.1	Integrate climate mitigation (e.g., alternative energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon materials) and climate adaptation (e.g., resilient landscaping, sustainable products, recycling systems) into all new and renewed facilities, parks, and green spaces.	CP	O
3.1.2	Implement construction standards and practices that reduce embodied carbon and incorporate nature-based solutions (e.g., rain gardens, permeable surfaces, creek daylighting) to enhance site resilience.	CP	O
3.1.3	Update maintenance and operations practices for facilities and parks to reduce carbon emissions and resource consumption (e.g., use electric equipment, reduce potable water use, implement sustainable materials and local product sourcing).	PPD	O

Objective 3.2: Protect and enhance natural assets and natural areas.

3.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
3.2.1	Establish a Natural Asset Management Plan (NAMP) to inventory, value, protect, and enhance all natural assets.	PPD	S
3.2.2	Actively implement the goals and targets of the Biodiversity Strategy to enhance local ecosystem health.	CP	O
3.2.3	Implement the Urban Forest Management Strategy to ensure a robust city-wide tree canopy cover for climate resilience and ecosystem services.	CP	O

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Objective 3.3: Support responses to climate emergencies.

3.3 Actions		Type	Timeline
3.3.1	Establish a monitoring program for climate change impacts on natural assets and residents, and use this data to inform and adapt planning, design, and operational procedures accordingly.	PS	S
3.3.2	Upgrade outdoor spaces (parks and plazas) to serve as accessible and comfortable refuges during extreme weather, prioritizing the needs of equity-deserving groups and vulnerable populations (e.g., enhanced shade, reliable drinking water, misting stations).	CP	M

4 Parks and Open Spaces

Goal

Provide a diverse, high-quality, and equitable network of parks and open spaces that supports the physical, social and environmental well-being of all residents.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 4.1: Ensure equitable access by providing all residents with a safe, five-minute walk (330 metres) of an active park (the proximity target).

4.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
4.1.1	Develop a Strategic Parkland Acquisition Strategy to prioritize and secure land for current and future parkland needs.	PPD	S
4.1.2	Establish a minimum park size standard of **0.6 ha** for new neighbourhood parks to ensure functional recreational value.	PPD	S

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4.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
4.1.3	Acquire and develop up to **13.8 ha** of land (approximately 23 new neighbourhood park spaces) with priority given to addressing proximity gaps in high-density and high-growth areas, with priority given to high equity-need neighbourhoods (downtown and west districts).	LA	O
4.1.4	Continue to maintain a balance in the variety of outdoor spaces and amenities to satisfy diverse interests (e.g., both structured, formal and informal play/sport, nature-based recreation).	CP	O

Objective 4.2: Maintain active parkland supply levels of service to keep pace with growth at 1.0 ha per 1,000 population city-wide (the population target).

4.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
4.2.1	Secure an **additional 10.2 ha** of active parkland to keep up with total city-wide population projections, ensuring the combined acquisition target of 24 ha meets both proximity and population needs.	LA	O
4.2.2	Integrate large-scale outdoor amenity requirements into acquisition planning to ensure new parcels meet minimum size and site characteristic needs (e.g., 1.1 ha for sports fields, 2.0 ha for regulation-size tracks).	PPD	O

Objective 4.3: Expand the acquisition toolkit to include innovation and optimization.

4.3 Actions		Type	Timeline
4.3.1	Apply the updated parkland classification system, integrating new types such as Urban Parks (e.g., pocket parks, park-like streets, plazas, boulevard rooms, etc.), Linear Parks, and Green Spaces/Nature Parks into the city network. This includes evaluating and integrating the 2026 Community Advisory Assembly recommendations for the design and implementation of pocket parks and park-like streets.	PPD	S
4.3.2	Maximize opportunities to expand the park network by securing air space parcels, privately-owned public spaces (POPS), partnerships and use agreements, and street right-of-way reallocations.	LA	O
4.3.3	Evaluate existing City-owned non-parklands for potential conversion to full or partial park use.	PPD	S

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Objective 4.4: Improve protection of existing and future parks.

4.4 Actions		Type	Timeline
4.4.1	Complete the inventory of existing parklands that possess specific extraordinary park use conditions and protection.	PPD	S
4.4.2	Apply appropriate Official Community Plan land use designations to identify all existing parks and areas anticipated to have future parkland needs.	PPD	S

5 Connectivity

Goal

Strengthen multi-modal connections to and within the parks and recreation system.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 5.1: Conduct an analysis of the parks and recreation system to identify and address connection gaps to the city-wide active transportation network.

5.1 Actions		Type	Timeline
5.1.1	Prioritize safe, non-vehicular connectivity to active parks within Transit-Oriented Areas (TOAs) and dense, land-constrained neighbourhoods to ensure they can access recreational spaces easily and safely.	PPD	O
5.1.2	Establish a service level standard and identify gaps in essential amenities—specifically lighting, seating, water stations, and wayfinding— across all park trails and the City-wide active transportation network to enhance user comfort and safety.	PPD	M
5.1.3	Identify steep-slope barriers where topography limits access to parks and recreation facilities. Map out "gentle-grade" alternative routes to ensure a connected network for users of all abilities.	PPD	M
5.1.4	Collaborate with Engineering and Public Works Department and TransLink to advocate for enhanced transit and active transportation links to major parks and recreation facilities.	PPD	O

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Objective 5.2: Improve riverfront connectivity.

5.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
5.2.1	Advance the Riverfront Vision by completing missing links in the mainland's east-west riverfront corridor, ensuring a continuous, accessible experience from Sapperton Landing Park to future Muni-Evers Park; and bridge gaps along the perimeter trail to create a complete, uninterrupted loop around Queensborough.	PPD	M
5.2.2	Work interdepartmentally on options to improve the connection for pedestrians and cyclists between the mainland and Queensborough.	PPD	L
5.2.3	Explore the feasibility and potential partnerships with external organizations to upgrade the Hyack Square pedestrian overpass, ensuring it meets universal accessibility standards to provide a safe, high-quality gateway to the riverfront.	PPD	L

Objective 5.3: Enhance user experience and wayfinding

5.3 Actions		Type	Timeline
5.3.1	Implement clear and consistent park name identification and wayfinding signage throughout the parks system that links internal pathways to the broader city-wide wayfinding network.	CP	O
5.3.2	Design multi-use paths through parks that minimize impact on active park uses (such as sports fields or playgrounds) and address potential conflicts, through both design and policy, between different types of users (e.g., pedestrians and cyclists).	PPD	O
5.3.3	Ensure adequate bike and e-mobility parking is included within parks and at the entrances of recreation facilities.	PPD	O

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6 Park Amenities and Facilities

Goal

Expand, renew, and optimize parks and park amenities.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 6.1: Advance strategic park planning and development.

6.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
6.1.1	Establish a master plan (guided by the analysis and needs assessment identified in this Plan) for each park classified as a city or community park to guide long-term growth and investment.	PPD	O
6.1.2	Continue to implement all park master plans and upgrade amenities in existing parks as identified in this Plan.	CP	O
6.1.3	Maximize the Growing Community Fund by evaluating high-priority projects that provide the greatest community impact.	CP	S

Objective 6.2: Respond to current and future community needs through proactive planning and design.

6.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
6.2.1	Prioritize the comprehensive list of capital projects to address existing service gaps. Key capital projects include: **Environmental Stewardship & Urban Forest** ▪ Ongoing street tree replacement and targeted planting city-wide (URBEI Phase Two) to maximize tree canopy cover on streets and boulevards ▪ Invasive species removal and native replanting at Glenbrook Ravine Park	CP	S-M

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Timeline	**O** Ongoing **S** Short-Term **M** Medium Term **L** Long-Term

6.2 Actions	Type	Timeline
6.2.1 Continued... **Sports Fields and Active Recreation** ▪ Conversion of existing grass fields at Ryall Park to artificial turf (including ball diamond, lighting, walking track, and seating) ▪ Sport court upgrades at Westburnco, Simcoe Park, Grimston, and Moody Park to multi-sport courts ▪ Upgrading the Hume Park lacrosse box to covered multi-sport facility ▪ Improvements to Cornwall Street Park (Brow of the Hill) ▪ Replacing the Queen's Park Stadium ▪ New dog off-leash area (location to be determined) **New Park Spaces** ▪ Completing the Westward Expansion of Westminster Pier Park (Park Space C) on the Riverfront ▪ Completing the Commemorative Park at 824 Agnes Street (downtown) ▪ Continuing work towards redevelopment of the Westminster Pier Park fire site **Play Features** ▪ Playground replacement at Grimston Park ▪ Spray park renewals at Ryall, Queen's, and Hume Parks **Public Washrooms and Other Amenities/ Facilities** ▪ Installing public washrooms at Park Space C, Old Schoolhouse Park, and Commemorative Park at 824 Agnes Street ▪ Completing replacement of the Queen's Park bandshell ▪ Improvements to the Queen's Park Habitat building for year-round programming. ▪ Installing bike storage lockers at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre ▪ Replacing a segment of the Quayside Esplanade lighting	CP	S-M
6.2.2 Explore options for safe, public access to the river for water-based recreation.	PPD	M
6.2.3 Integrate multi-use, flexible, and all-weather amenities into all new and redeveloped park projects to ensure year-round usability.	CP	O

Type	**PPD** Policy, Planning + Design **CP** Capital Projects **PS** Programs + Services **LA** Land Acquisition
Timeline	**O** Ongoing **S** Short-Term **M** Medium Term **L** Long-Term

6.2 Actions		Type	Timeline
6.2.4	Create a Park Lighting Standards Policy based on best practices.	PPD	M
6.2.5	Phase future park development to align with population projections, ensuring that upgrades and new amenities are implemented proactively as the city grows (see **Figure 14**: Future Growth List for more details).	CP	O

7 Indoor Recreation Facilities

Goal

Expand, renew and optimize recreation facilities.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 7.1: Ensure the long-term sustainability of recreation facilities.

Actions		Type	Timeline
7.1.1	In collaboration with the Engineering and Public Works department, continue to implement the City's Facility Asset Management Plan (2024) to support service levels, prioritize improvements, and inform decisions on renewal, upgrade, and growth projects.	CP	O
7.1.2	Create comprehensive maintenance plans for all recreation facilities, including both preventative plans and restorative schedule for replacement of flooring, appliances, paint, minor facility upgrades, etc.	PPD	S
7.1.3	Proactively upgrade or replace recreation facility amenities (e.g., major equipment such as diving boards, score clocks, etc.) to maintain high service standards and user safety.	CP	O
7.1.4	Prioritize accessibility enhancements, specifically the front entrance and lobby at Century House.	CP	S

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Timeline	**O** Ongoing	**S** Short-Term	**M** Medium Term	**L** Long-Term

Objective 7.2: Respond to existing and future community needs through strategic recreation facility growth.

Actions		Type	Timeline
7.2.1	Adopt a service level target of 135 square metres of community facility space per 1,000 residents (excluding pools and arenas) to guide the planning of new and expanded indoor recreation spaces.	PPD	O
7.2.2	Proactively upgrade and replace community recreation facilities as identified in the 10-Year Plan to ensure established service levels are met.	CP	O
7.2.3	Build future capacity by strategically planning new community recreation facilities in high-growth areas to meet projected population demands. This may include lease space, dedicated space within new mixed-use or high-density developments, or colocation with other city facilities (see **Figure 14**: Future Growth List for more details).	LA/ PPD	M-L

8 Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability

Goal

Improve and expand core services and plan for financial sustainability.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 8.1: Manage park and recreation assets.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.1.1	Complete the hard asset inventory and condition assessment of all park and recreation amenities and features, and define acceptable asset condition and service level standards.	PPD	S
8.1.2	Prepare a Parks Asset Management Plan to track department performance, forecast long-term renewal and replacement needs, and support data-driven decision-making.	PPD	S
8.1.3	Prepare a Recreation Major Equipment Management Plan to track department performance, forecast long-term renewal and replacement needs, and support data-driven decision-making.	PPD	S

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Objective 8.2: Diversify and expand programs and services.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.2.1	Increase outdoor and nature-based programming, utilizing expertise in city horticulture, urban forestry, natural areas, and greenhouse operations.	PS	O
8.2.2	Activate park spaces with seasonal 'pop-up' programs to provide flexible, small-scale recreational opportunities.	PS	O
8.2.3	Expand the Facility Allocation Policy to prioritize equity, inclusion, and access goals in the use of recreation and park spaces.	PPD	S
8.2.4	Reimagine the Park Memorial Bench Program to include broader memorialized assets and commemorative opportunities.	PPD	S
8.2.5	Increase program offerings and access to underserved, specifically prioritizing equity-seeking demographics in neighbourhoods with identified service gaps (i.e., seniors in the downtown).	PS	O
8.2.6	Foster inter-departmental collaboration to maximize city-wide program activation and resources.	PS	O
8.2.7	Promote food security through food-based programming and initiatives within parks and recreation facilities.	PS	O

Objective 8.3: Optimize parks and recreation facility operations.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.3.1	Maximize space utilization in facilities by adjusting hours, space usage, and capacity based on data-driven analysis.	PS	O
8.3.2	Regularly evaluate all user and lease agreements to ensure recreation amenities are used to their full potential and community benefit is maximized.	PPD	O
8.3.3	Establish a Temporary Park Use Policy to guide decision-making regarding use of park space for non-park and recreation purposes.	PPD	S

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Timeline	**O** Ongoing **S** Short-Term **M** Medium Term **L** Long-Term

Actions	Type	Timeline
8.3.4 Conduct service reviews of the Park Ambassador and Park Liaison Officer programs annually to enhance public safety.	PS	O
8.3.5 Develop a Horticultural Standards Policy that strategically locates horticultural excellence points and hanging baskets throughout the City.	PPD	S
8.3.6 Create a Greenhouse Operations Strategy that focuses on sustainable best practices, partnerships, and community programming.	PPD	S
8.3.7 Develop a City-Wide Food Service Operations Strategy that aligns operational efficiency with food security and healthy living goals.	PPD	S
8.3.8 Formalize Facility Maintenance Standards and Best Practices in collaboration with the Civic Buildings and Properties division.	PPD	M
8.3.9 Explore feasibility of a satellite public works yard in Queensborough in conjunction with the Engineering and Public Works Department.	PPD	S
8.3.10 Explore co-location of Engineering Public Works and Parks Operations in one common public works yard in conjunction with the Engineering and Public Works Department.	PPD	S
8.3.11 Explore the feasibility of aligning Park and Open Space Maintenance (currently in the Engineering and Public Works Department) and Parks Operations (currently in the Parks and Recreation Department) into one division to enhance efficiency and consistency of service levels and standards within parks.	PPD	S

Objective 8.4: Optimize administrative operations and communications.

Actions	Type	Timeline
8.4.1 Develop and implement an inclusive Parks and Recreation marketing and communication strategy designed to reach all segments of the community.	PPD	O
8.4.2 Improve parks and recreation administrative services to better respond to public inquiries and to reduce technological barriers to program registration and facility bookings.	PS	O

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Actions		Type	Timeline
8.4.3	Develop and implement administrative policies, standards, and procedures for consistency across all departmental service areas.	PPD	O

Objective 8.5: Evaluate projects and programs.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.5.1	Improve data collection and analysis to better inform decisions regarding programs, facilities, and resource allocation.	PS	O
8.5.2	Audit park amenity performance regularly, using findings to relocate, repurpose, or upgrade underutilized features.	PS	O
8.5.3	Continuously assess indoor and outdoor facilities and sport trends, integrating feedback from sport user groups to adapt plans for better access and inclusive use.	PS	O

Objective 8.6: Secure funding.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.6.1	Identify stable and dedicated funding mechanisms to support reserves for renewal of parks and recreation amenities and spaces as identified through asset management planning, and to advance new initiatives as identified in this Plan. Leverage the City's tools for financing growth through new development to deliver new parks, amenities, and facilities to help address high-need / high-growth areas of the city.	PPD	O
8.6.2	Explore revenue generating and funding opportunities through public and private partnerships and sponsorships.	PPD	M

Objective 8.7: Manage funding.

Actions		Type	Timeline
8.7.1	Update the Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw to reflect current land values and acquisition needs to support population growth.	PPD	S
8.7.2	Update the Amenity Cost Charge (ACC) Bylaw to reflect future amenities and facilities to support population growth.	PPD	S

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Actions		Type	Timeline
8.7.3	Continue to leverage City capital funds to attract and secure grant funding, maximizing the impact of City investments in parks and recreation.	PPD	O
8.7.4	Align operating budgets with growth, ensuring funding scales appropriately as the city acquires new parkland and constructs new facilities.	PPD	O

9 Collaboration and Partnerships

Goal

Expand community access to parks, facilities, and services through a range of partnerships that maximize resources and services.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 9.1: Strengthen existing and foster new partnerships and relationships with community groups and organizations.

Actions		Type	Timeline
9.1.1	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new agreements that specifically serve underrepresented and equity-seeking groups.	PPD/ PS	O
9.1.2	Support collaboration with and across sport organizations in planning for future park amenities and the utilization of facilities.	PPD/ PS	O
9.1.3	Establish formal agreements (including reciprocity) with private developers, businesses, and non-profits to allow public access to private spaces and programs.	PPD	O
9.1.4	Expand collaboration with stewardship groups and offerings for environmental education programs and nature-based programs.	PS	O

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Objective 9.2: Strengthen collaboration with other departments to integrate parks and recreation into broader City initiatives.

Actions		Type	Timeline
9.2.1	Create Streetscape Design Guidelines in collaboration with Transportation staff to integrate urban park spaces into street rights-of-way.	PPD	M
9.2.2	Collaborate with Community Services department to develop a Parks and Open Space Activation Plan that outlines strategies for providing diverse and inclusive activities and events (including pop-up programs, regular programming, community festivals, music performances).	PPD	M
9.2.3	Develop a Riverfront Community Events and Activation Plan and seek opportunities to work with partners to integrate cultural representation, programs, and activations. Coordinate with the Downtown Revitalization Plan and Riverfront Vision.	PPD	M
9.2.4	Explore a City-operated Riverfront Office dedicated to implementing the Riverfront Vision (e.g., to oversee initiatives, major projects, operations, activations, programs, marketing, and partnerships).	PPD	M
9.2.5	Facilitate public art in parks and recreation facilities through the Public Art Strategy.	CP	O
9.2.6	Optimize civic facility utilization by offering city-wide recreation programs at other City facilities such as Anvil Centre and New Westminster Public Libraries.	PS	O

Objective 9.3: Strengthen relationships with other municipalities and administrations.

Actions		Type	Timeline
9.3.1	Align collaboratively with School District 40 on formalizing joint use agreements for outdoor spaces, indoor spaces, and shared programming.	PPD	S
9.3.2	Expand inter-municipal planning and operations of major recreation facilities and park assets.	PPD	O

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New Westminster