



# Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

## Love Locks Sculpture Location & Development

October 21, 2015

Visit the Park Board website at: [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)



# Recommendation

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve Queen Elizabeth Park as the most suitable location for a ‘Love Locks’ sculpture in Vancouver.



# Background

The Park Board adopted the following final motions on July 6, 2015:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve retaining a local artist through a competitive procurement process to create a custom and structurally safe ‘Love Lock’ sculpture for Vancouver Parks.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board ask staff to proceed with public consultation for a ‘Love Lock’ installation to include potential diverse locations across the City, as well as the opportunity for open-ended input.

Staff were directed to report back post public consultation.



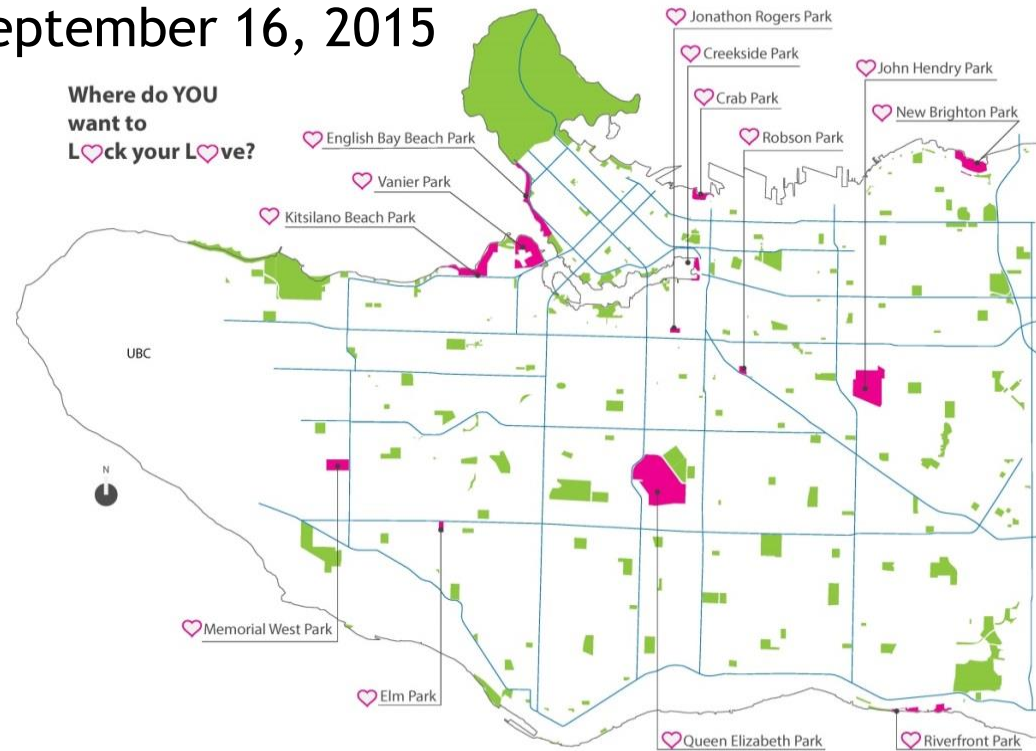
# Progress to Date

- **August 19, 2015 - September 16, 2015:**  
A successful public engagement occurred
- **September 2015:**  
Analysis of public response
- **October 2015:**
  - First Nations consultation
  - Environmental and cultural analysis of 3 top locations
  - RFP considerations

# Public Engagement

- **Campaign:** online ‘vote’ for a park location
- **Advertisement:** August 19 - September 16, 2015

- 30 project signs in 13 suggested parks
- 100+ posters on community boards
- 500 info cards distributed
- Park Board social media, Talk Vancouver, local news sources
- Local News outlet interest



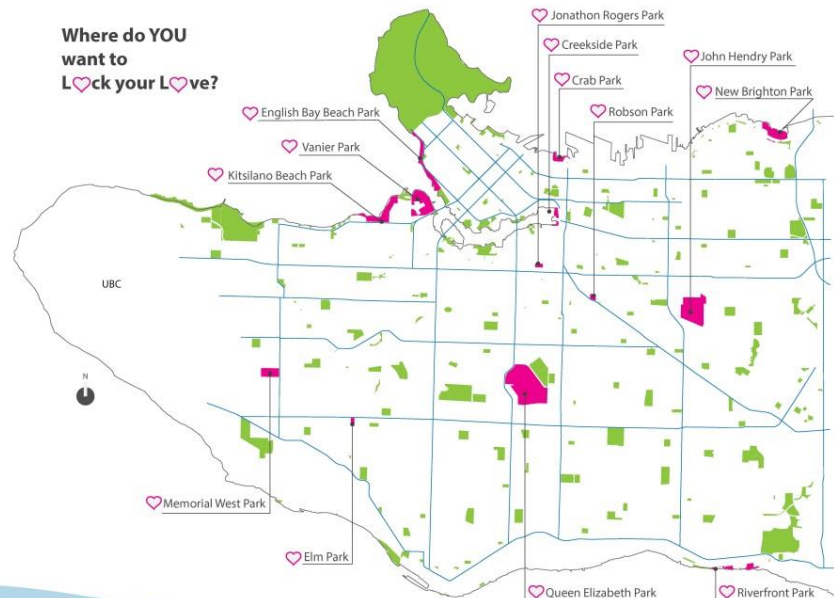


# LOVE LOCKS ARE COMING TO VANCOUVER!

## What are love locks?

Love locks are padlocks that romantic partners have traditionally locked to a bridge, gate, or similar public fixture to show their love. Names or initials are typically inscribed on the padlock, and its key is thrown away to symbolize an unbreakable bond. Many cities are now turning the 100+ year old trend into public art. We want to do just that in Vancouver!

**Tell us online** between **August 19 - September 16** ([vancouver.ca/love-locks](http://vancouver.ca/love-locks)) where a new love lock sculpture should go. The art piece will be site specific and developed for the winning location. Choose from one of the 13 suggested parks or nominate a new one.



For further information, please contact us:



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[VancouverLoveLocks@vancouver.ca](mailto:VancouverLoveLocks@vancouver.ca)



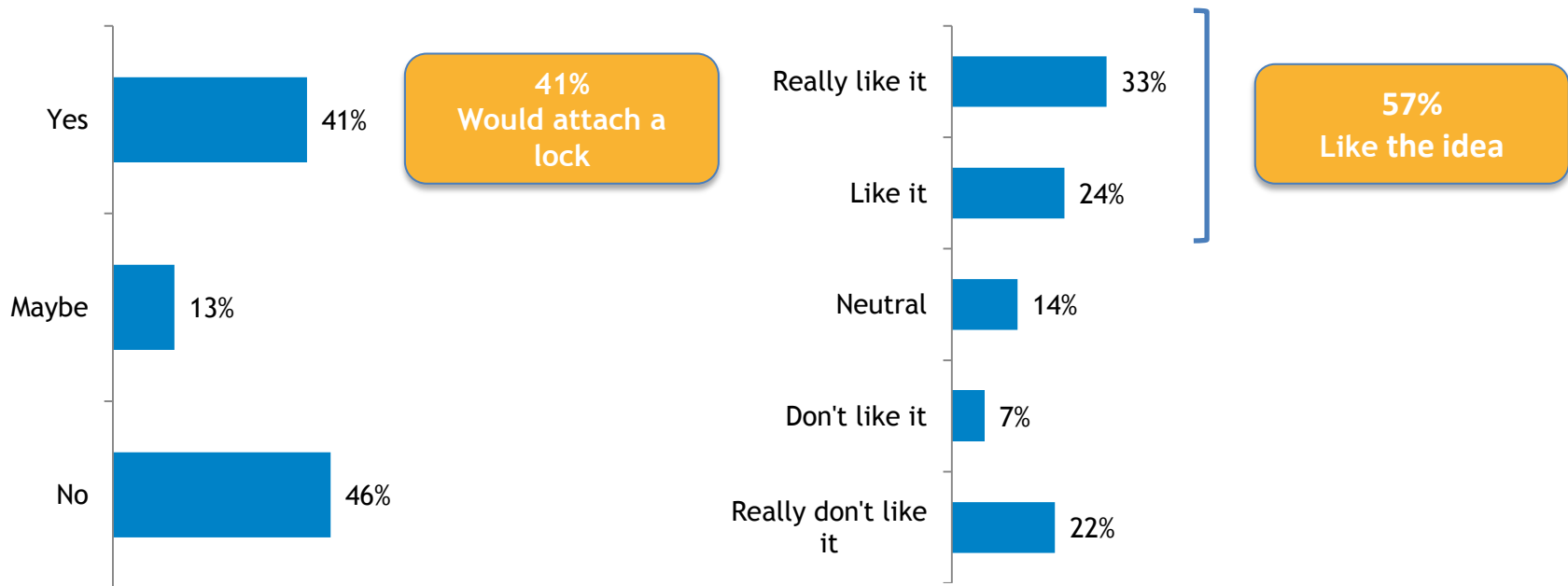
[/ParkBoard](https://www.facebook.com/ParkBoard)



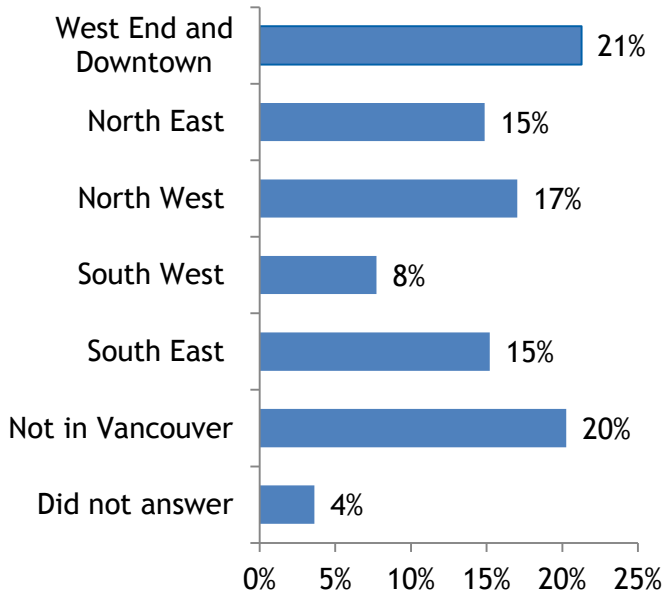
[@Park Board](https://twitter.com/ParkBoard) [#VancouverLoveLocks](https://twitter.com/VancouverLoveLocks)

# Public Engagement: Results

- 2,097 surveys completed; the large response indicates data represents a good cross section of the public.
- Overall 57% of respondents like the idea, 14% were neutral and only 29% do not like the idea.



## Where Respondents Live



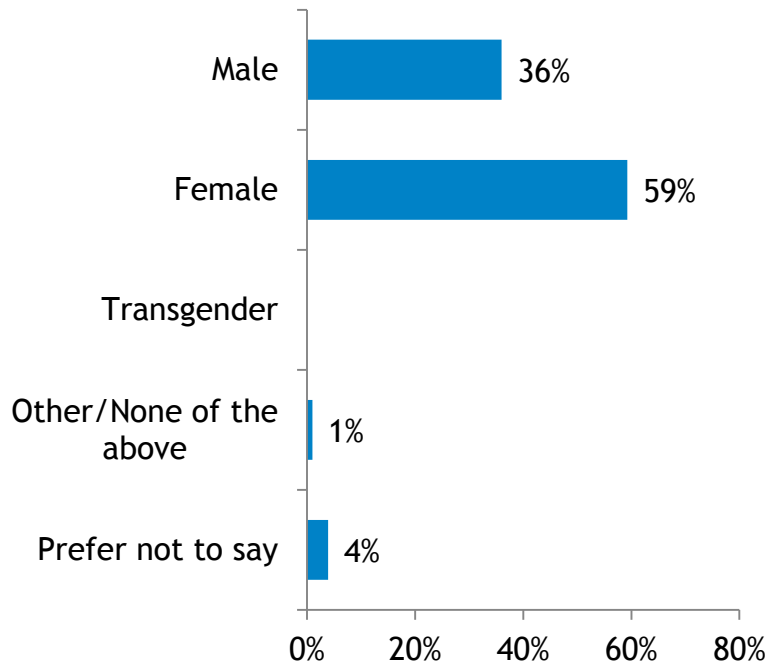
- Respondents from all parts of Vancouver
- Highest response from the West End and Downtown, and Kitsilano/West Point Grey
- Close to a quarter lived outside of Vancouver (visitor attraction)



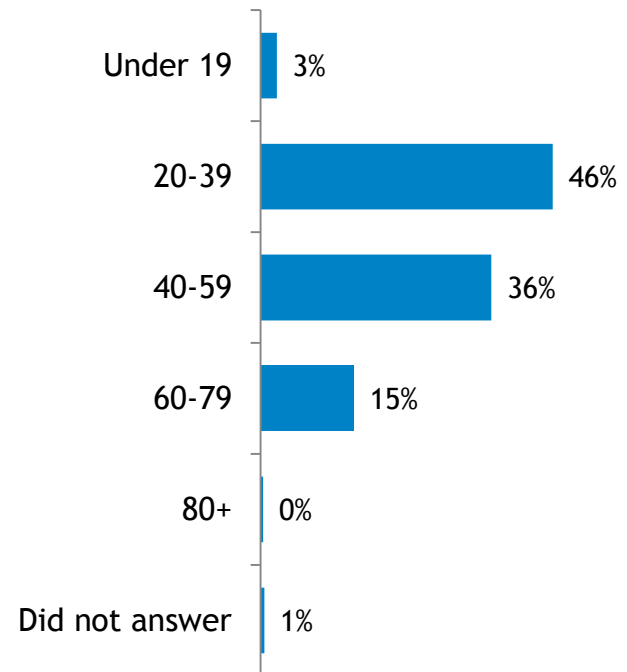
# Public Engagement: Results

- Greatest proportion of respondents were 20 to 39 years of age
- More respondents were women than men

### Gender Identification

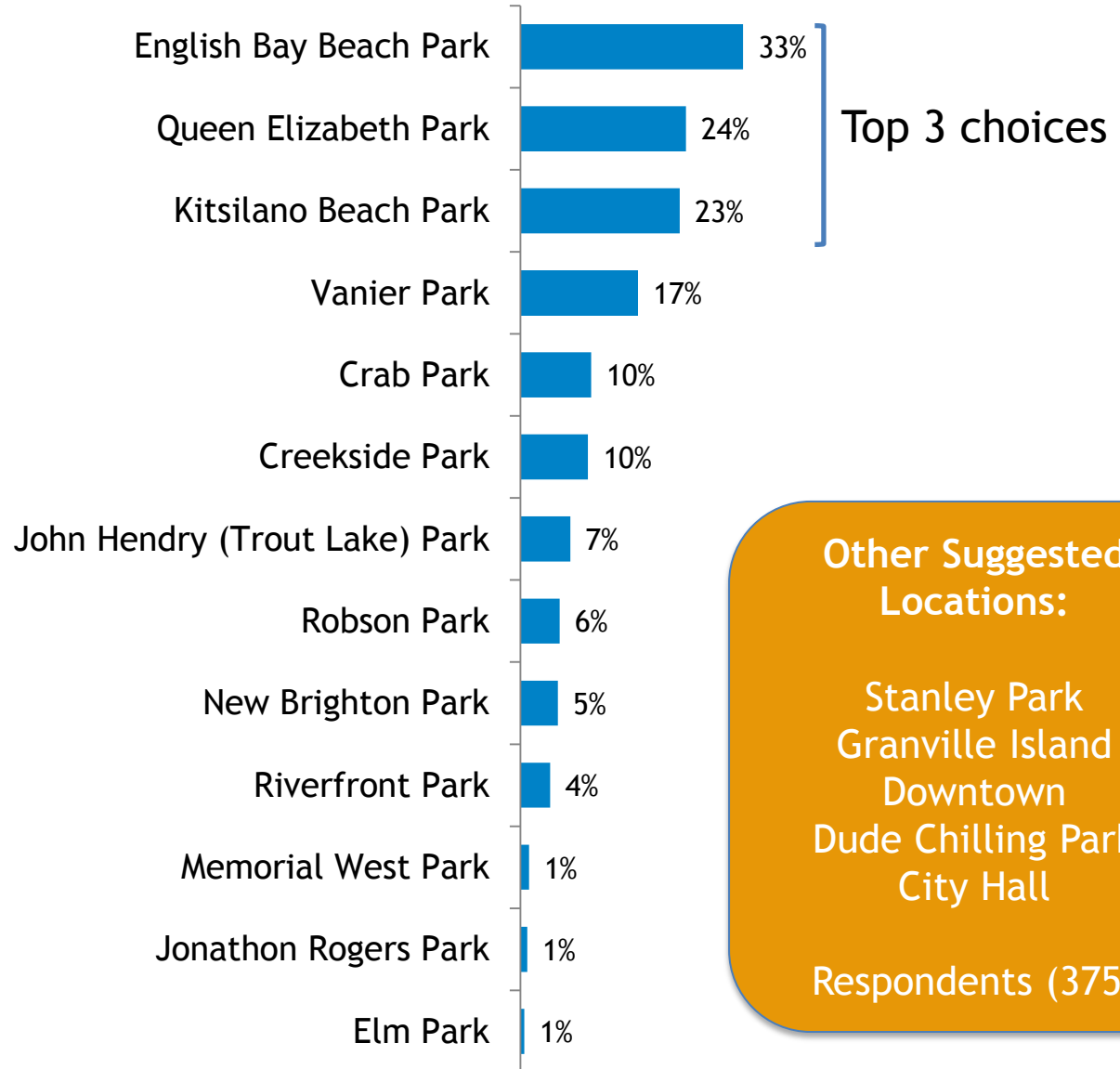


### Age Categories



# Public Engagement: Results

- Votes for the sculpture location were spread amongst the 13 park choices;
- no one park emerged with a majority vote (i.e. selected by over 50% of respondents)





# Archaeology

- English Bay Beach Park and Kitsilano Beach Park are known as traditional First Nations lands
- Archaeological sensitivity is high in these parks
- There is strong cultural connection to these locations
- Park Board is currently collaborating with representatives from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
- Initial discussions with staff and the First Nations confirm that, of the top three locations, the only suitable location for the sculpture is in Queen Elizabeth Park

# Park Use Considerations

- Green space use is at a premium in Kitsilano and English Bay (evident in summer season and events like the annual Celebration of Light)
- Conflict potential between bare feet, dogs, and wildlife with stray keys is greater at beach locations



# Existing and Future Considerations

- A seawall and foreshore renewal likely within the decade at English Bay Beach (may result in need to relocate sculpture in near term)
- Two public art pieces exist in close proximity to English Bay Beach:  
Amazing Laughter and the Inukshuk





# Recommended Location: Queen Elizabeth Park

- Staff recommend **Queen Elizabeth Park** as the best location for a love lock sculpture due to a positive survey response, low archaeological and environmental concerns, and a highly complementary setting for the project
- The park is accessible by vehicle, foot, bicycle, transit or tour bus
- Visited on special occasions for picnics, photo opportunities, weddings, strolls through the gardens, and regular recreational use



# Recommended Location: Queen Elizabeth Park

- Topography of the park leads to panoramic views of the City of Vancouver, the North Shore, Burnaby, and more points further east
- The park has sufficient space to support another feature
- Partnering and programming opportunities with park facilities (Bloedel, the Celebration Pavilion and Seasons in the Park Restaurant)

# Recommended Locations: Queen Elizabeth Park







# RFP Development

- With a Park Board approval of a location staff will lead a competitive procurement process to hire a designer and/or artist to design and build the love locks sculpture
- The precise location in Queen Elizabeth Park will be finalized in collaboration with the designer



# RFP Development - Key Design Requirements

- Unique to Vancouver and complement the place it is located
- No conflict with existing park gathering spaces or uses, or diminish views to other park features
- Design should incorporate public amenity (i.e. the sculpture also creates seating, shade, lookout, etc.)
- Form must be visually appealing as the amount of locks grows
- Sculpture must be structurally sound and a structural engineer will be involved
- Creative key collection component for safe key disposal - the end life of the keys should be a storied dimension of the installation
- Proponents to have experience in successful public art and/or commemorative projects



# Park Board Strategic Framework

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- This proposal links to the Park Board Strategic Objective for Active Community Participation
- By providing a new interactive arts and culture experience this project encourages active participation in parks



# Next Steps

- **November 2015:** Complete RFP
- **December - January 2016:** Procurement process
- **February - March 2016:** Design Development
- **April - June 2016:** Fabrication and Installation



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