



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

McBride Park Improvements

October 21, 2015

Visit the Park Board website at: vancouverparks.ca



Recommendation

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the replacement of the existing playground at McBride Park, as proposed in this report;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a new community garden at McBride Park as described in this report; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to terminate discussions about the possible closure of Waterloo Street between the eastern and western portions of McBride Park due to low public support.

McBride Park Context



McBride Park Context

- 1.7 ha (4.2 acre) neighbourhood park
- Separated by Waterloo Street
- West side: tennis courts, playground & field house
- East side: sports fields, dogs



Park development projects (playground renewal and community garden) presented an opportunity to explore Waterloo Street closure concurrently

Existing Site Conditions - Playground

- CSA non compliance
- Heavy shade



View of playground and mature trees from W 5th Ave looking north

Existing Site Conditions - Playground



- Site-line concerns
- Bisected by pathway

View of playground, field house, tennis courts from W 5th Ave

Existing Site Conditions - Garden Location



View of lawn area proposed for community garden

Existing Site Conditions - Waterloo Street



- Mature trees
- Concrete sidewalks
- Paved lane with gravel shoulders
- Total ROW 0.52 acres

View of Waterloo St. from W 4th Ave looking south



Progress to Date

June 2015:

Open house held on site to present park development projects and road closure opportunity

- Playground renovation
- A new community garden
- Park expansion through possible closure of Waterloo St.

Summer 2015:

Public input received and reviewed

- Online survey June 20 - July 3
- Large public response (emails, letters and phone calls)
- Private online petition through change.org to support park improvements and road closure

August 2015:

FOI request regarding Waterloo St. closure received and responded to

Open House June 20, 2015



Waterloo St closed for the open house which included:

- Display boards, artist in residence performances, light refreshments, chalk drawing, and a paper survey



Open House Promotion

The consultation was advertised via:

- Project signs in the park
- Posters in businesses along W 4th Ave
- Email invitation to Talk Vancouver members living close to the park (V6K postal code)
- Fliers delivered to homes in a two block radius around the Park
- Messaging via City and Park Board social media accounts



Open House Input Format

A total of 273 respondents completed the questionnaire which was accessed in the following ways:

- Open invitation on the City of Vancouver website
- A paper survey at the open house on June 20
- Email invitation sent to Talk Vancouver members who lived in the FSA closest to the park (V6K)

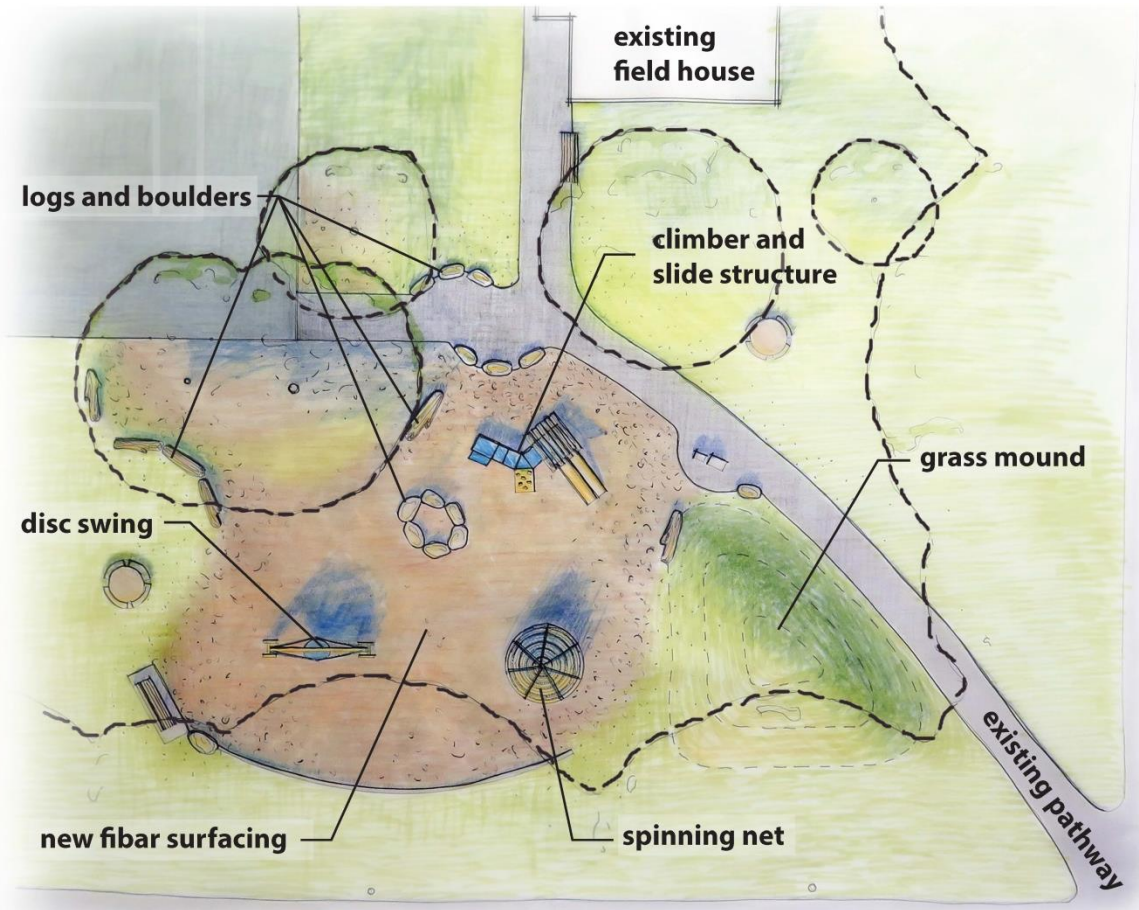
Who did we hear from?

- 93% of respondents live in proximity to the park
- Approximately 1/3 of respondents had children under the age of 17 in their home
- All age groups were evenly represented with a slightly higher response from the age category of 60 and older



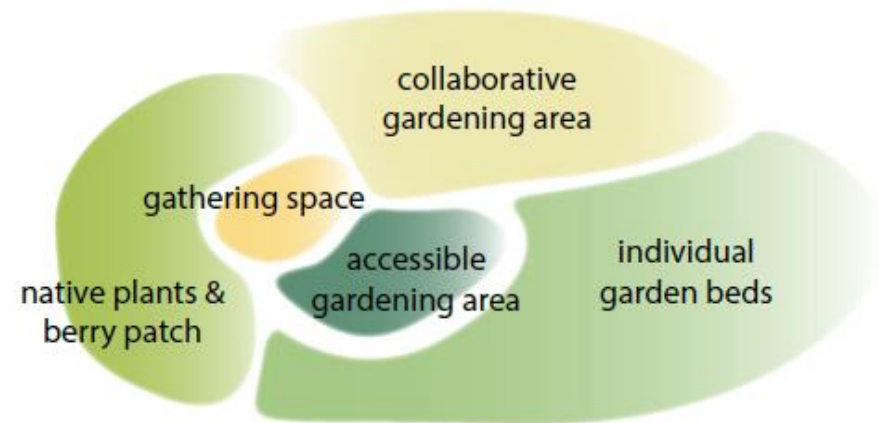
Open House Summary: Playground Renovation

- Good support for the new playground (62%), with 15% neutral, 19% opposed, and 4% unsure
- Shifts playground west to one side of path
- Preferred elements of the new design: natural elements for play and informal seating (56%) and the new grass berm
- Least favoured element: disc swing (21%)

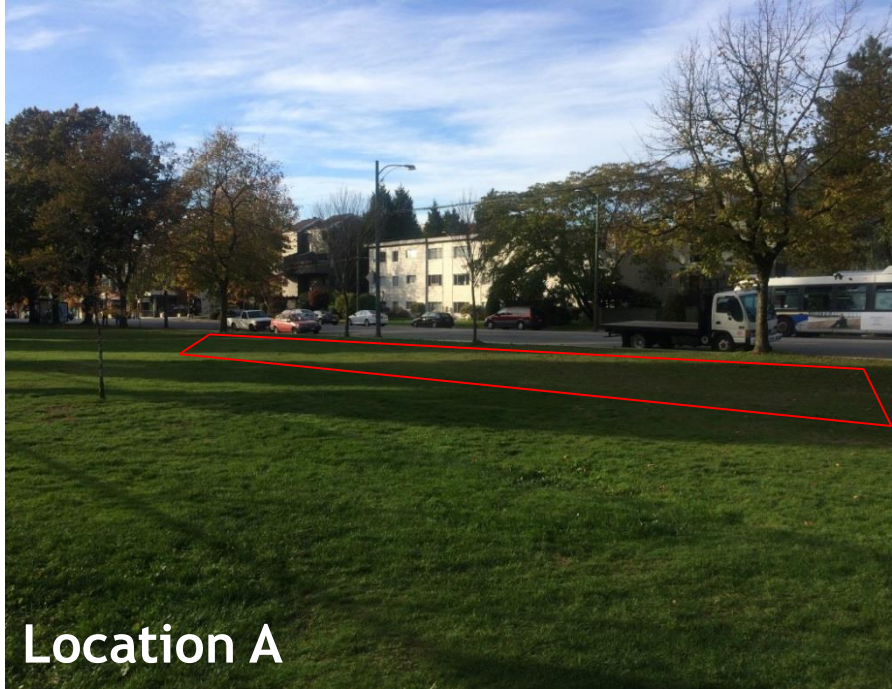


Open House Summary: Community Garden

- Moderate support for the community garden (55%), with 18% neutral, 20% opposed and 5% unsure
- Benefits identified: food sustainability, community connections, gardening opportunities for those without land
- Concerns : how plots are assigned & maintained, theft
- Native plant and berry patch is most favoured as identified by just under a third surveyed (32%)
- Positive response to the individual and communal plots and community gathering spaces



Recommended Locations: Community Garden



- Along the edge of W 4th Ave
- Acts as buffer for park users
- Animates a new part of the park
- Minimizes impact to passive space



- Along the edge of tennis courts
- Animates a new part of the park
- Minimizes impact to passive space

Open House Summary: Waterloo St. Closure

- Lack of consensus on road closure (53%), with 44% opposed, 2% neutral and 1% unsure
- There is a clear divide in opinion about the proposal and not enough support to proceed



Park Board Strategic Framework

- **Parks and Recreation For All:**
 - Accessibility for all ages and abilities
 - Playground with natural play features
 - Seating and lounging areas

- **Leader in Greening:**
 - Local food source with pollinator beds





Park Board Strategic Framework

- **Excellence in Resource Management:**
 - Retain existing trees on site
 - Salvaged boulders & logs
 - Increased permeability for storm water infiltration
 - High durability and low maintenance design

- **Engaging People:**
 - 1 community open house
 - Interdepartmental collaboration (CoV Planning/Engineering)



City Wide Initiatives

Greenest City 2020 Action Plan

■ GOAL 6: Access to Nature

- Improving the city's green spaces makes people more likely to use them, which benefits physical and emotional health
- Contributes to our sense of community by creating places for recreation activities, for children to play and for neighbours to meet and socialize

■ GOAL 10: Local Food

- Reducing the distance from farm to plate, also reduces our ecological footprint
- Community gardens provide an opportunity for neighbours to work together, for garden education, and increases access to nutritional food sources



Next Steps

Playground

- **October:** Consultant completes construction drawing package
- **December:** ITT award for construction
- **Jan - April:** Construction
- **Spring 2016:** Playground opens

Community Garden

- **November:** Community garden concept revised
- **December:** License agreement with Village Vancouver
- **February:** Construction and community build
- **Spring 2016:** Community garden opens



Recommendation

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the replacement of the existing playground at McBride Park, as proposed in this report;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a new educational and community garden at McBride Park as described in this report; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board supports the closure of Waterloo Street between the eastern and western portions of McBride Park in order to extend the park and green space, subject to a City of Vancouver led comprehensive public consultation and a detailed traffic management plan.



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AND RECREATION