



Downtown Skateboard Park - Interim Relocation Engagement Process

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, May 15, 2017



Presentation Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board context on the Downtown Skateboard Park and the facility's importance to the community. Staff will review the interim plans for the Skateboard Park and seek approval from the Board on the engagement process.



- **Background:**
 - Northeast False Creek Area Plan
 - Existing Skate Plaza and User Engagement
 - Emerging Policy for Northeast False Creek
 - NEFC Project and Timeline
 - Skateboarding Trends / Skateboarding in Vancouver
- **Discussion:**
 - Location criteria
 - Potential sites
 - Project Timeline and Budget
- **Recommendations**

Project Background



Northeast False Creek and Viaducts Replacement



In 2015, Vancouver City Council approved in principle the removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts.

A final decision on whether to proceed with the viaducts replacement is anticipated to be before City Council in late 2017.

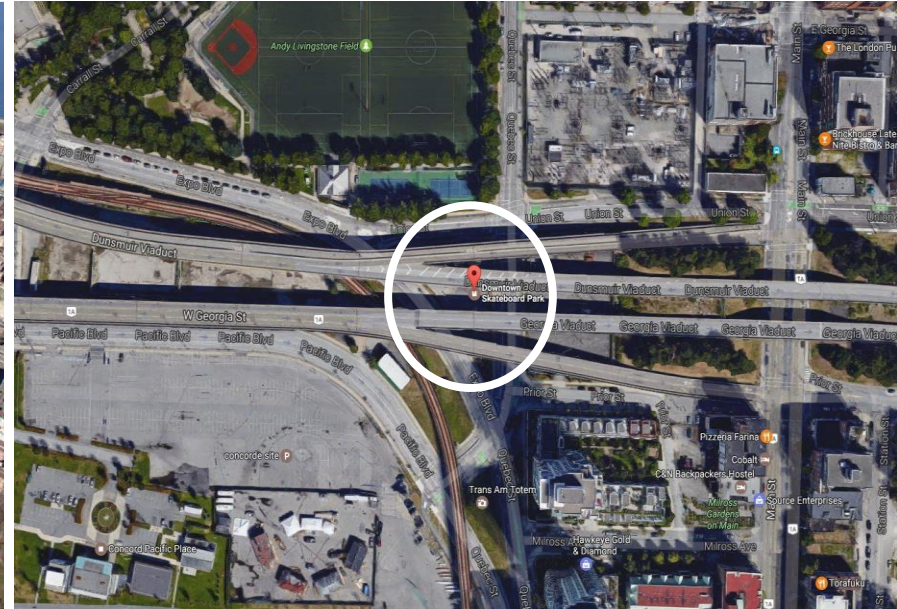
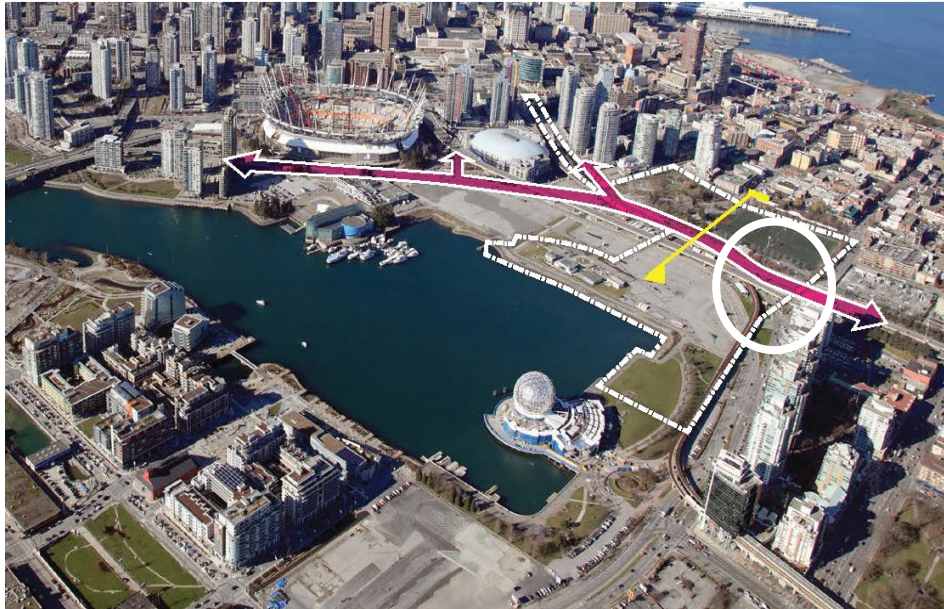
Northeast False Creek Area Plan

Opportunity to reimagine all of Northeast False Creek: a new neighbourhood, anchored by a new destination park.



Northeast False Creek Area Plan

The future realignment of Pacific Blvd will impact the Vancouver Downtown Skateboard Park (commonly known as Skate Plaza) located beneath the viaducts.



Northeast False Creek Area Plan

Viaduct demolition and new street construction is anticipated to impact the use of the Skate Plaza as of 2019.



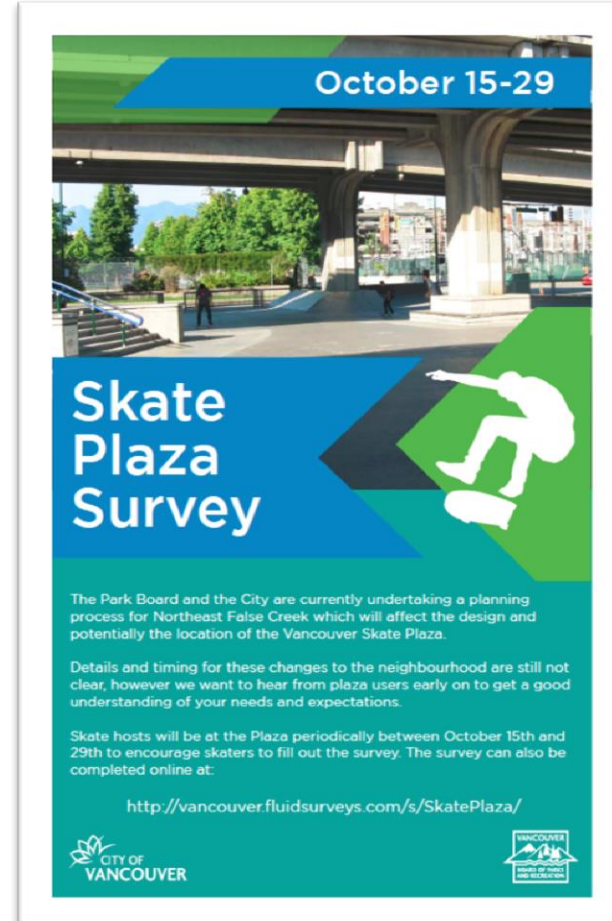
Skate Plaza

- The Vancouver Skate Plaza is a 2,000 m² (21,500 ft²) street style covered skateboarding outdoor facility
- Originally built in 2004 as a temporary skate park by the Park Board.
- The Plaza is owned by the City of Vancouver and is maintained, programmed and administered by the Park Board.



User Survey – October 2016

- 3rd in a series of surveys conducted in 2005 and 2010 by PB
- Intended to understand skateboarders user profile, their needs and expectations with NEFC process
- 2,248 responses from over 25 countries



October 15-29

Skate Plaza Survey


The Park Board and the City are currently undertaking a planning process for Northeast False Creek which will affect the design and potentially the location of the Vancouver Skate Plaza.

Details and timing for these changes to the neighbourhood are still not clear, however we want to hear from plaza users early on to get a good understanding of your needs and expectations.

Skate hosts will be at the Plaza periodically between October 15th and 29th to encourage skaters to fill out the survey. The survey can also be completed online at:

<http://vancouverfluidsurveys.com/s/SkatePlaza/>

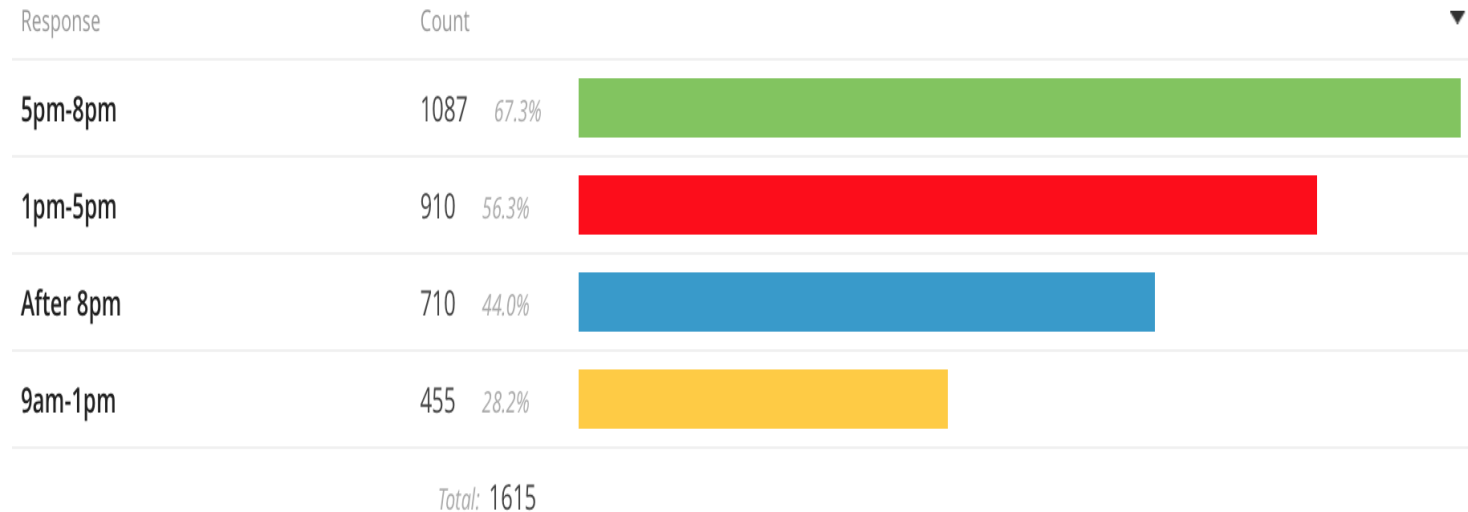
CITY OF VANCOUVER



- Community hub and globally recognized skateboard facility
- Success Factors:
 - Proximity to downtown
 - Partial cover (viaducts)
 - High-quality durable materials
 - Large Size
 - Open and visible space
 - Accessibility to a wide range of users with varying skills



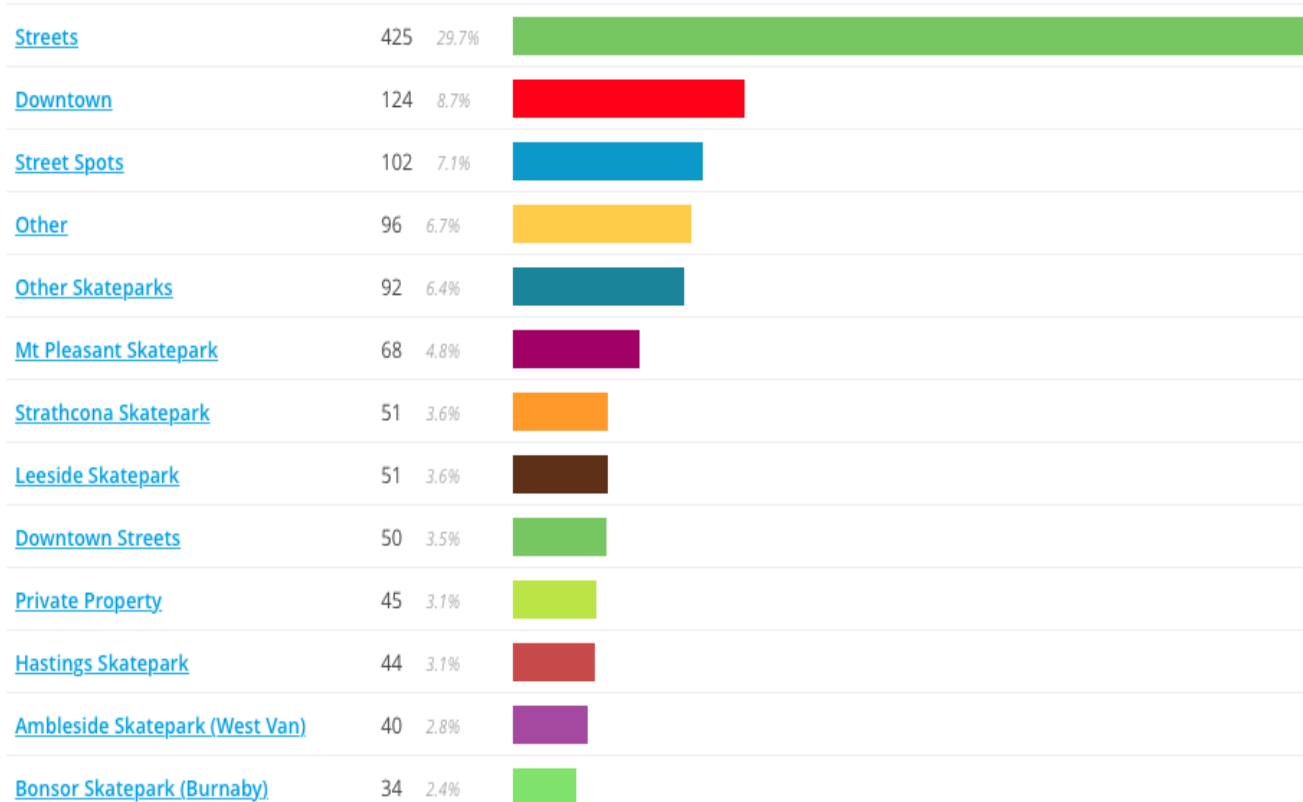
When do you most often skate at the Plaza? For how long?



- Skateboarders spend significant amounts of time at Plaza, especially in the afternoon and evening
- Majority stay longer than 3 hours.

Where would you skate if the Plaza wasn't available?

Majority indicated they would turn to skating the streets, downtown and street spots should the Plaza not be available.

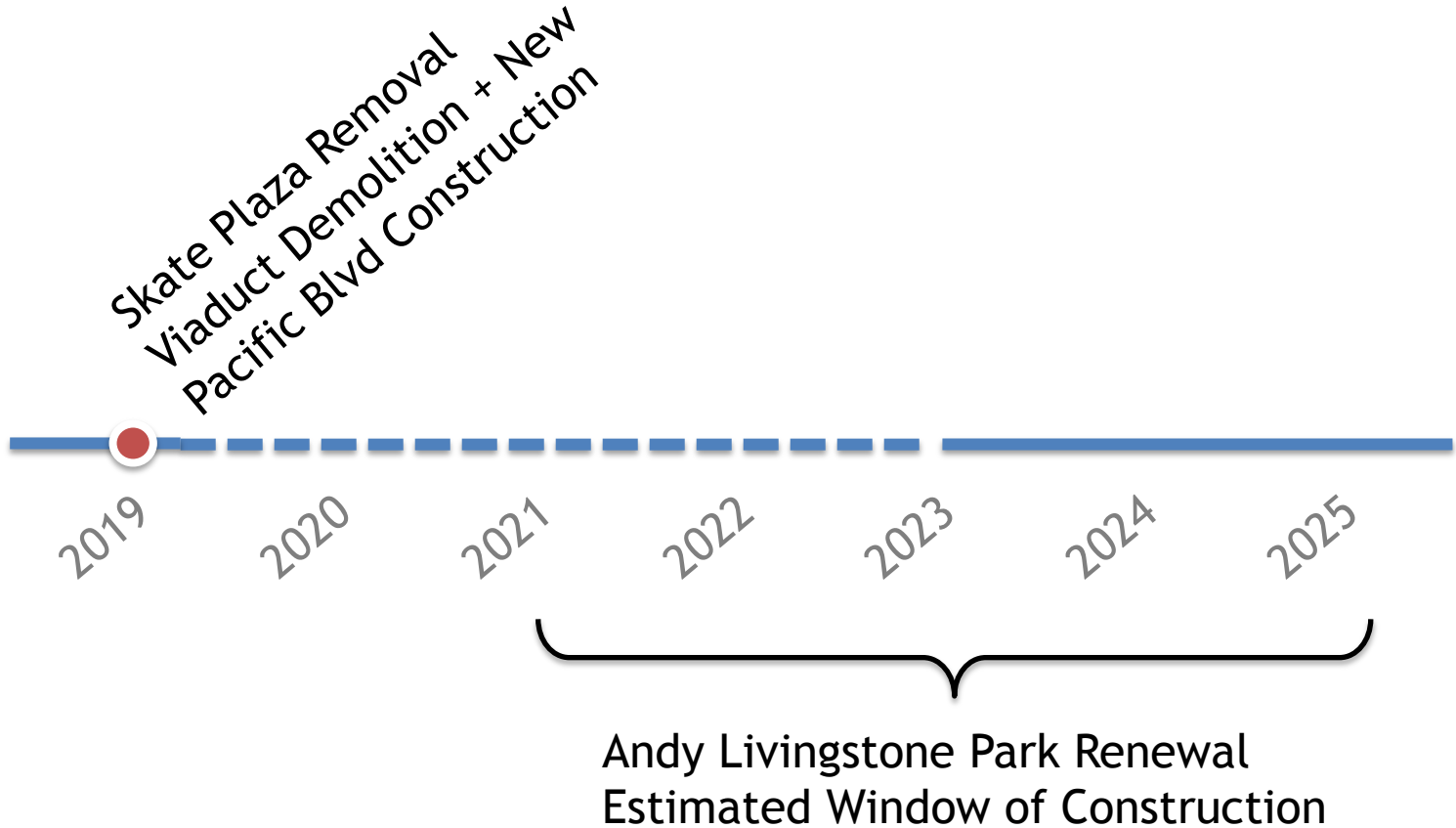


- Reiterate the 2015 Council direction to replace the skate plaza in the new park space.
- Affirm the need to build an interim skate plaza while construction in NEFC is underway.



Source: NEFC Park Design – Early Directions/Guiding Principles (2017)

NEFC Project Timeline



- Skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in North America
- The IOC recently announced that park terrain skateboarding would be included as event in the 2020 Olympics

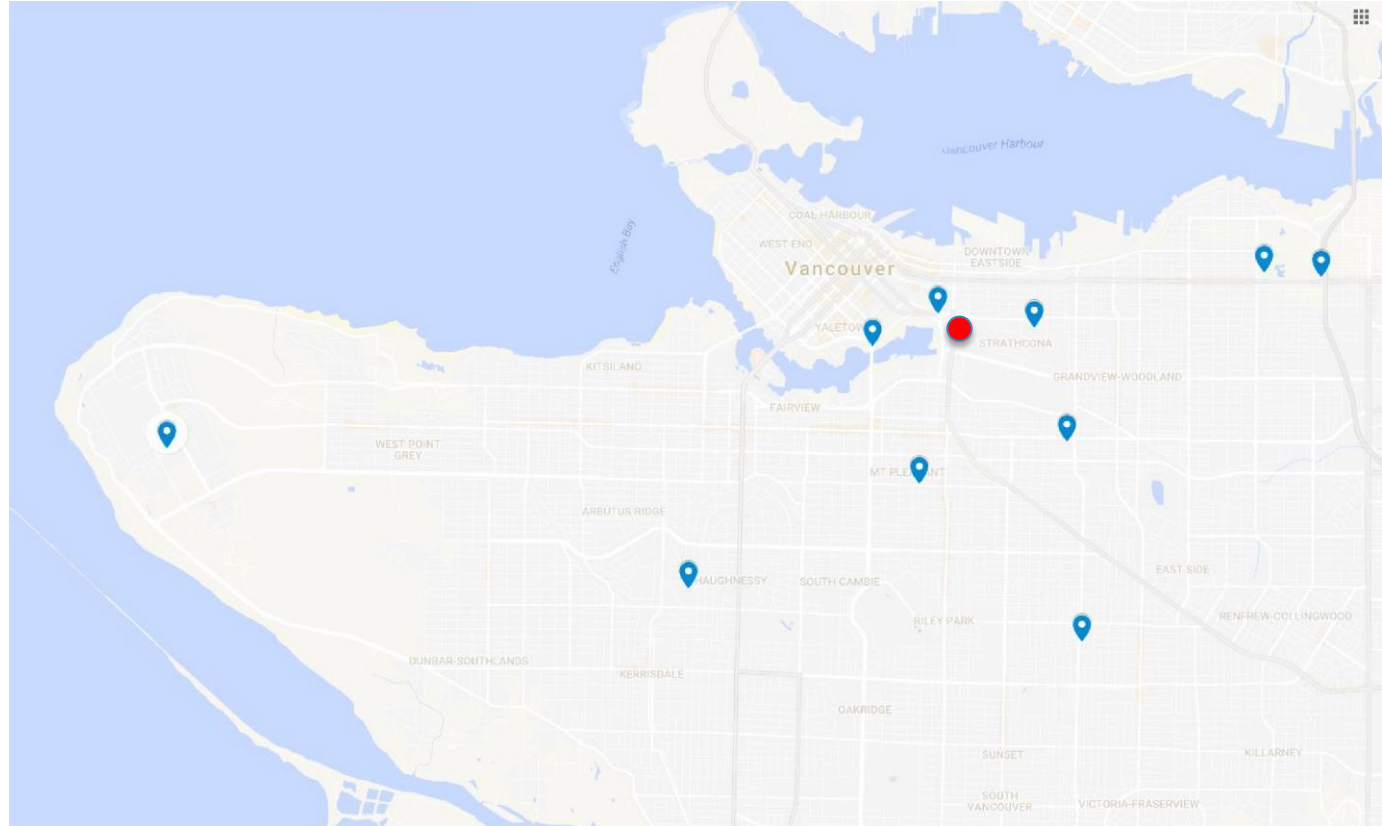


- Skateboarding offers opportunities for flexible self-motivated recreation that is accessible to a wide variety of individual users for little cost .
- As a self-directed sport, skateboarding often extends into adulthood because it is an unstructured, flexible and adaptable activity with low barriers to participation.

- Vancouver legalized skateboarding in the streets and ended the confiscation of skateboards in 2005.
- In 2005 Park Board developed Skateboard Strategy to meet the growing demand. However, its expiry in 2015 has left the supply of skateboarding facilities lacking far behind the still growing demand.

9 Facilities

- Skate Plaza ●
 - China Creek South
 - Kensington Park
 - Hastings Park
 - Leaside Tunnel
 - Strathcona Park
 - Quilchena Park
 - Coopers Park
 - Mt. Pleasant Park
- + *UBC*



Project Background

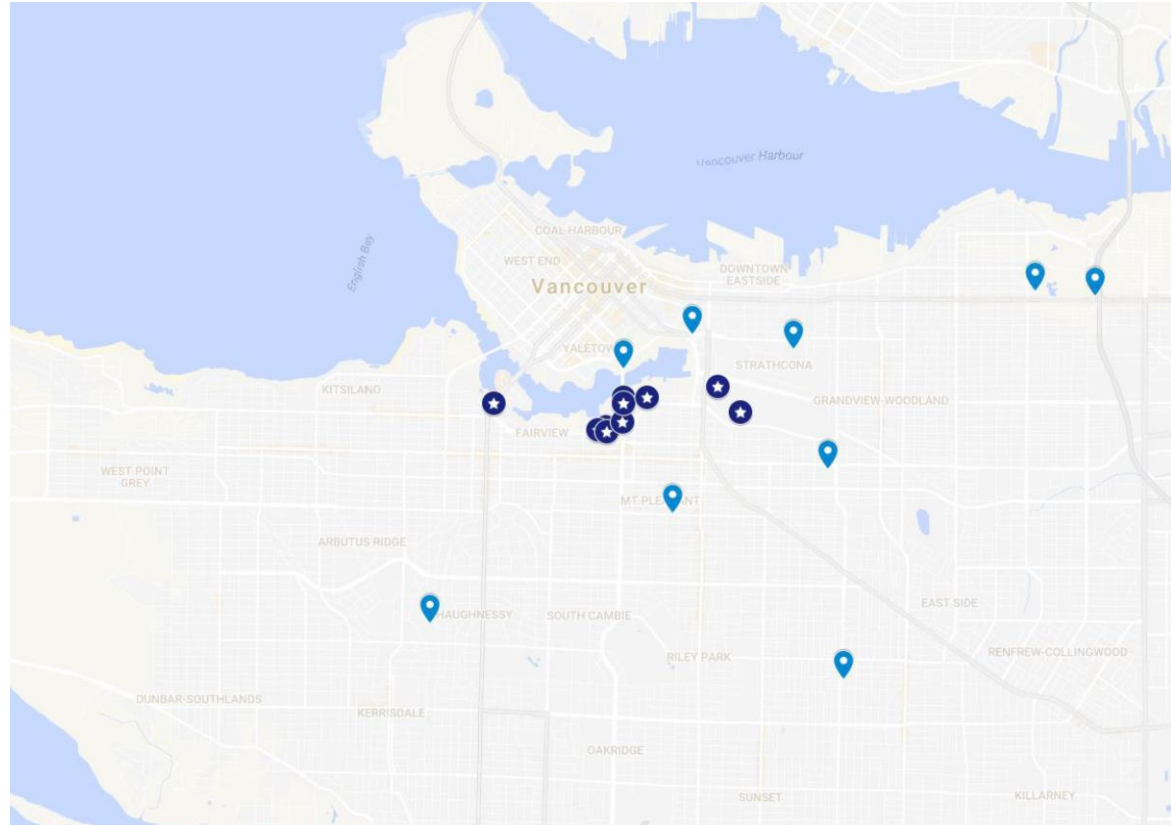
- Recent improvements at Mt Pleasant Skateboard Park have been effective at reducing noise and after hours use (since 2015)
- Quilchena Skate Park to receive upgrades (2017)





DISCUSSION

- PB staff are currently determining initial interim sites on City owned land, that meet the general criteria
- Recent feedback from the skateboard community notes the preference to be located in highly visible areas



- The interim facility should be similar to the existing facility by :
 - Aligning with the Vancouver Skateboard Strategy
 - Providing cover
 - Being close to downtown and accessible by transit
 - Focusing on “street” style features
 - Being a similar size
 - Having good sight lines
 - Minimizing impact on residential neighbors



Phase 1 – Engagement and Design

- Provided by NEFC Project Capital Budget (Engineering)

Phase 2 – Detailed Design and Construction

- Construction budget to be included in NEFC Capital Budget

Project Phasing: Engagement and Approvals Overview



Phase 1
Engagement and
Design

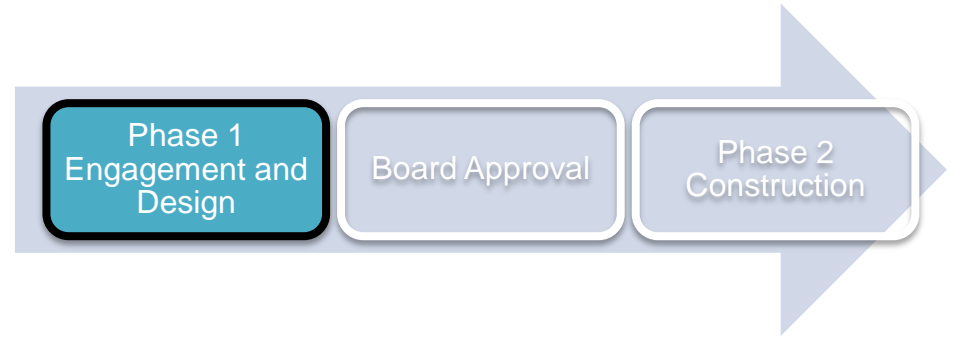
Board Approval

Phase 2
Construction

Phase 1 Engagement and Design



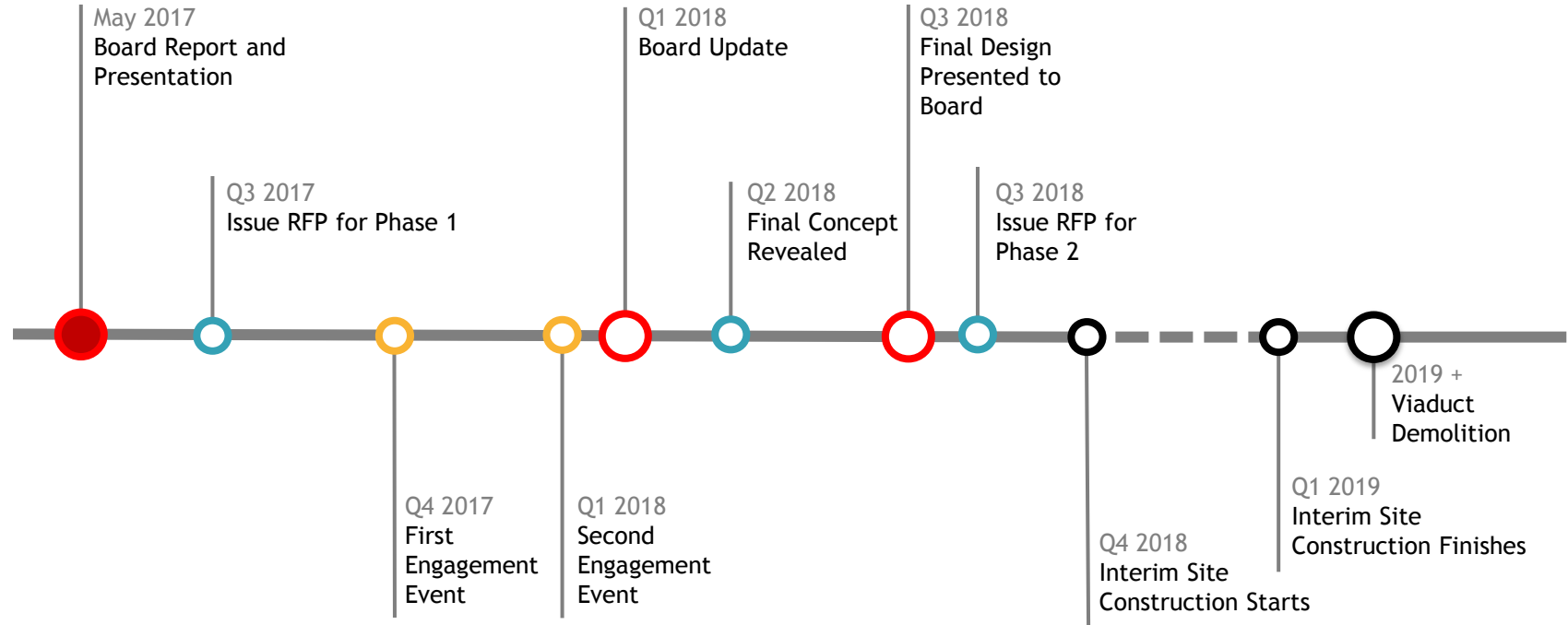
- a) evaluate three candidate sites
- b) identify desired skate features
- c) develop conceptual skate park designs for the preferred site
- d) finalize a concept plan for the new facility



Stakeholders include:

- Vancouver Skateboard Coalition
- Adjacent businesses and property owners
- Community Centre Associations or groups
- Nearby residents

Project Timeline

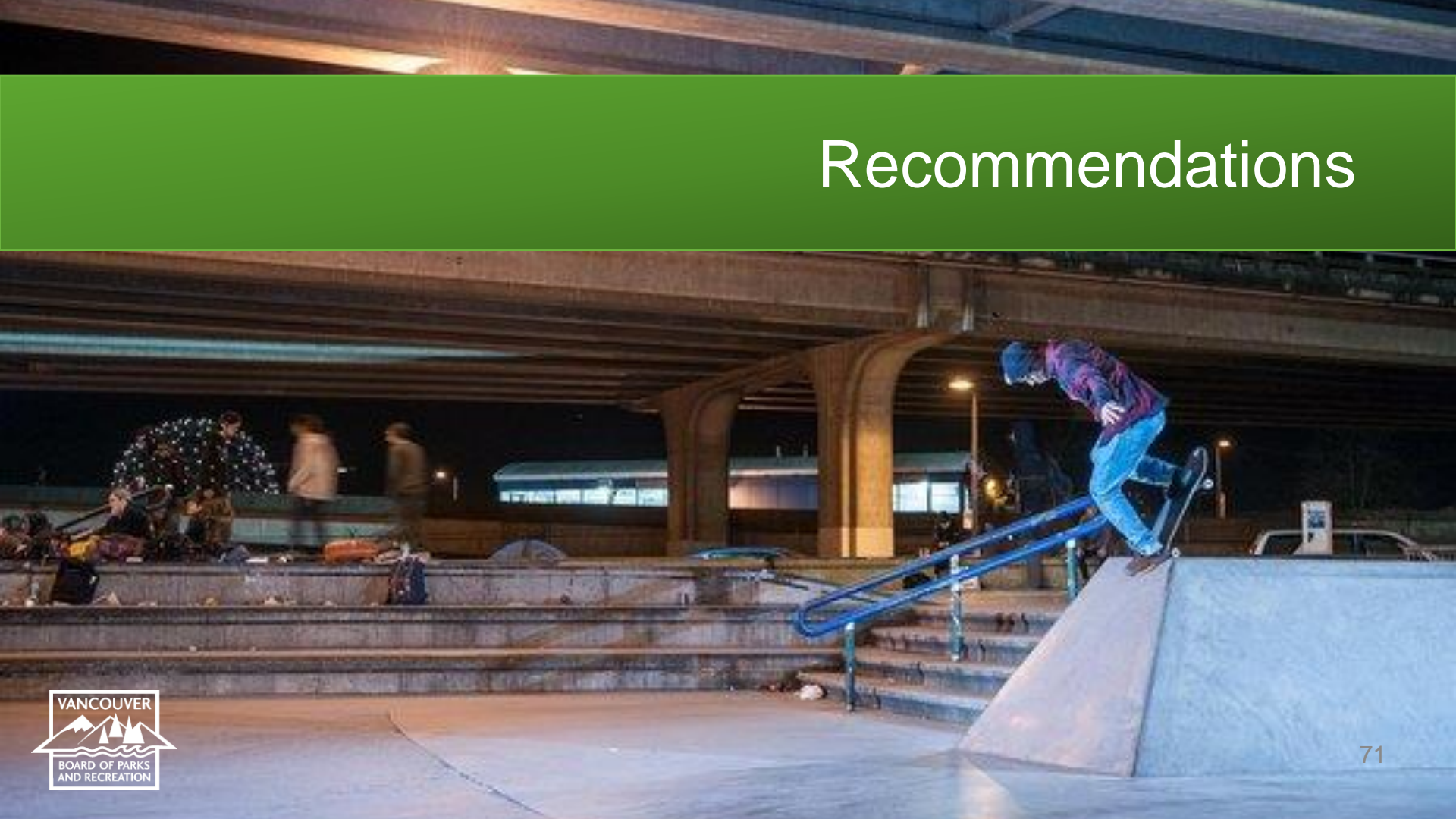


2017

2018

2019

Recommendations



- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the engagement process proposed for the location and conceptual design of an interim street-style skateboard park to temporarily replace the Downtown Skateboard Park as described in this report; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board on the findings of this engagement for approval of the location, prior to the development of the facility.