



January 13, 2020

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – New Park Board Sites

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in Queen Elizabeth Park and at Champlain Heights, Douglas Park, Kensington, Kitsilano, Renfrew, and Roundhouse Community Centres, subject to the satisfaction of the Park Board General Manager.

REPORT SUMMARY

With an increase in electric vehicle (EV) ownership, providing easy access to electrical vehicle charging stations is an important next step in supporting the shift towards an emissions free future. The installation of more EV charging stations helps to implement key Park Board and City wide goals and strategies including: VanPlay Goal 5: Adapt our Parks and Recreation Amenities to a Changing Climate; Vancouver City Council Climate Emergency Response; and the EV Ecosystem Strategy.

In collaboration with Park Board staff, City staff are working to install EV charging stations at various community centres and parks to establish a robust and equitable public charging network.

BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

On July 20, 2009, the Park Board [approved a motion](#) directing staff to identify potential capacity and suitable parking lots and nearby areas for electric vehicle charging.

On June 11, 2012, the Park Board approved the [installation of electric vehicle charging stations along Beach Avenue](#).

On November 2016, the [Electric Vehicle Ecosystem Strategy](#) was approved by City Council Under this strategy, the City committed to a parallel approval process through Park Board for any installations on Park Board land.

On January 15, 2018, the Park Board approved the installation and operation of [new EV charging stations at Dunbar, Killarney, and Trout Lake Community Centres](#).

On July 23, 2018, the Park Board approved VanPlay's "[10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years](#)", which includes Goal 5: Adapt our Parks and Recreation Amenities to a Changing Climate.

On April 29, 2019, City Council approved the [Climate Emergency Response](#) to increase efforts to tackle climate change.

On October 9, 2019, the Park Board approved the final 2 reports for [VanPlay - Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#). VanPlay's [Strategic Bold Moves](#) presents tools to create a more connected and equitable future for parks and recreation amenities.

BACKGROUND

The City has installed over 100 electric vehicle charging stations at a variety of public, fleet, workplace, and residential locations. The public locations include the following Park Board sites: Coal Harbour, Hillcrest, and Mount Pleasant community centres; Empire Fields, Vancouver Aquarium in Stanley Park; and along Beach Avenue at the foot of Bute Street, Broughton Street, and Cardero Street.

The operation and maintenance of public EV charging stations is managed by City Engineering staff. The City will own, operate, and manage, either directly or through contractors, the majority of the public charging stations installed under the EV Ecosystem Strategy.

DISCUSSION

The Need for Public Charging

The Park Board and the City have both recognized the need for publicly accessible charging infrastructure to encourage a shift from fossil fuels to electric vehicles. While the 2016 EV Ecosystem Strategy looks first to expand access to charging at the home and workplace, a robust public charging station network will support those residents unable to charge at home or at work. Additionally, allowing plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to remain on battery power increases the number of electric kilometres that can be driven and provides range confidence to drivers who might ordinarily choose a fossil fueled vehicle for longer journeys.

Presently, the public charging network in Vancouver is not distributed evenly across the city. While it is estimated that there are over 300 public charging points across Vancouver, large portions of East Vancouver and the West Side have little to no charging facilities. New sites to receive EV charging stations were identified to address the issue of equitable access to charging.

New Parks and Recreation EV Charging Sites

City staff worked with Park Board staff to identify potential parks and recreation sites that would meet the goals to broaden the public charging network and provide more equitable access. Initial considerations identified by Park Board staff included: impacts to existing trees; potential impacts to existing parking lot layout; and impacts to existing electrical infrastructure.

With these factors in mind, staff identified Queen Elizabeth Park and the Champlain Heights, Douglas Park, Kensington, Kitsilano, Renfrew, and Roundhouse community centres as possible sites for new EV charging stations. City staff also intend to install curbside EV charging stations at or near Strathcona Community Centre as this location is considered a priority.

A full review of each of the potential Park Board locations will be undertaken, in consultation with impacted community centre associations (CCAs), to assess overall site feasibility and to

determine the preferred charging station locations. Preliminary reviews for the Champlain Heights and Kensington community centres have already been completed; staff met with the recreation supervisors, conducted reviews of the electrical systems, and confirmed the preferred parking stalls to house new EV charging stations.

It is anticipated that while some parking spaces may need to be blocked off during construction, parking lots would remain open during the installation of any new EV charging infrastructure at Park Board sites.

Financial Implications

The City's Engineering department will be responsible for all costs associated with installation and maintenance of public EV charging stations, including those installed at Park Board locations, with funding provided by Natural Resources Canada under their [Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program](#) ("ZEVIP").

NEXT STEPS

Subject to the Board's approval, the following chart identifies the anticipated project timeline for the installation of new EV charging stations at Park Board locations:

Activity	Anticipated Schedule
1) Award contract for EV charging vendor (by City)	Q1
2) Conduct site assessments and consult impacted CCAs for new Park Board locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Champlain Heights CC- Douglas Park CC- Kensington CC- Kitsilano CC- Renfrew CC- Roundhouse CC- Queen Elizabeth Park	Q1 to Q3 2020
3) Install EV charging stations	Q3 2020 to Q2 2021

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that EV charging infrastructure be installed in Queen Elizabeth Park and at the Champlain Heights, Douglas Park, Kensington, Kitsilano, Renfrew, and Roundhouse community centres to provide expanded and more equitable access for Vancouver's electric vehicle users. This work will advance Park Board goals of climate mitigation and an emissions-free future.

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Existing and Proposed Locations for EV Charging Stations

