



June 16, 2017

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Tiina Mack, Manager of Park Development
SUBJECT : **Playground Replacement Program Update**

Dear Commissioners,

In April 2016, a previous Board memo outlined the results of public engagement for the replacement or removal of six playgrounds. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the status of the six aforementioned playgrounds in addition to other upcoming playground improvements that are priorities identified in the 2015 Assessment of Playspaces report.

Clark Park:

Over the summer and fall of 2016, Stratford Hall, a local private school, ran a successful fundraising campaign which allowed for renewal of the east playground. Staff hired an external consultant in October 2016 to lead the design process and staff held a public open house in December to seek feedback. The new playground design was developed over the winter and spring of 2017 incorporating the feedback received, and a final concept has been publicly revealed on the website and through park signage. Construction is anticipated to commence in August with a targeted completion of October 2017. An opening celebration in collaboration with the school will be held where a donor plaque will be unveiled.

Guelph Park:

The playground was removed by park operations staff in the spring of 2016, and the area was restored to lawn. No concerns have been raised by residents subsequent to the removal likely because the playground in the park and adjacent Mt. Pleasant Elementary schoolyard are available.

Langara Golf Course:

The aged playground was removed by park operations staff in the spring of 2016, and the area was restored to lawn. One 3-1-1 call was received inquiring when the playground would return and staff were able to advise on the availability of a new playground which will be developed for nearby Winona Park and the new playground at adjacent J.W. Sexsmith Elementary schoolyard.

Riverfront Park:

The playground was replaced in the summer of 2016 including the addition of a new swing area with one accessible bucket seat and has been well received by local residents.



WC Shelley Park:

Playground replacement signage has been posted in the park since April 2017. Park operations staff will relocate the new playground away from the laneway to a safer location that allows for more equipment. An improved barrier between the park and the laneway is planned, and park development staff are also working with residents to install a small community garden bed as part of this project. Construction is planned for late summer to support establishment of new grass in the previous playground location, and establishment of the community planting area. The process will take two to three weeks from start to finish.

Oxford Park, Major Matthews Park, and Prospect Point (Stanley Park) playgrounds:

Playground replacement signage has been posted in these parks since April 2017. This summer park operations staff will replace the play equipment and safety surfacing in these three parks. The Prospect Point project includes a new large nature-themed play structure.

Hinge Park:

The existing playground in Hinge Park was identified as inadequate to serve the growing population of young families in the Olympic Village area. Over the summer of 2016, a notice of a playground expansion was advertised through signage in the park. In April 2017, park operations staff installed a new swing set with one accessible bucket seat and sand play area. An issue of unsanctioned, off-leash dog use in conflict with the playground has arisen, and the suggestion for improved separation between the two uses has been proposed. A public engagement is being planned by staff to engage the community on what further changes would be supported to separate uses around the playground this summer.

Douglas Park:

Staff are engaging with the Douglas Park Community Association, the general public, and the Park Board's Accessibility focus group, including a public open house in October 2016 where feedback was received on an initial playground concept plan. The playground design is currently being refined and staff anticipates construction of the new playground will begin in the fall of 2017. The Douglas Park Community Association has committed at least \$400K towards this playground renewal project which has an estimated total cost of \$800K, including a construction contingency. This playground includes nature play and accessibility features.

RFP for Upcoming Playground Renewals

A number of additional playgrounds have been prioritized for replacement in the current capital plan due to their age and condition, which will require the support of external consultants to complete. A Request for Proposals will be posted over the summer of 2017 for design services to renew the playgrounds at: Ash, Beaconsfield, Champlain Heights, Charleson, Collingwood, Jones and Winona Parks. Staff will begin to work with consultants post-award, with public engagements to follow through the fall of 2017 and early winter of 2018.



There are many playgrounds city-wide in need of renewal and Park Board staff are working to prioritize and address the needs in an efficient manner, balancing operational resources for maintenance, financial resources and donations available for the projects, and nature play and accessible features where they are needed the most.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information about any of the aforementioned playground projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiina Mack".

Tiina Mack
Manager of Park Development

LH/TM/

Copy to: PB Senior Management Team
PB Communications
Supervisor of Major Maintenance and Construction