



OnWATER

Vancouver's Non-motorized Watercraft Recreation Strategy

Park Board Committee Meeting
June 10, 2019



Purpose of Presentation

Provide an overview for: *On Water, Non-motorized Watercraft Strategy*, seek Board approval on the Strategy and receive endorsement on the 10 year Implementation Plan as a basis for future capital planning discussions.

Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. Strategy Overview
 - Vision and Strategic Directions
 - Strategies and Actions
3. Engagement Process and Results
4. Next Steps



Background

Need for the Strategy:

- Long history of providing non-motorized watercraft access.
- No strategic vision to direct investment, maintenance and partnerships.
- Facility quality, stakeholder engagement and public access diminished.
- Facilities operating over-capacity without understanding needs.
- Clarity on priorities to guide future investment needed.
- Safe and welcoming water recreation, responsive to population growth and changing needs (VanPlay).

Background

Approach to On Water

- Understand the public's use of and access to non-motorized watercraft.
- Research and data informed process with public engagement.
- Provide clarity on existing use, needs and opportunities.
- Enhance recreational opportunities.
- Shape future non-motorized recreation and facilities planning.
- Provide a 10 year implementation plan.

Background

Strategy timeline

Summer
2017

Spring
2019
Park Board
Consideration

**Public
Engagement**

Research + Analysis, develop
Vision and Directions

Phase 1

**Public
Engagement**

Develop draft
Strategies and Actions

Phase 2

**Public
Engagement**

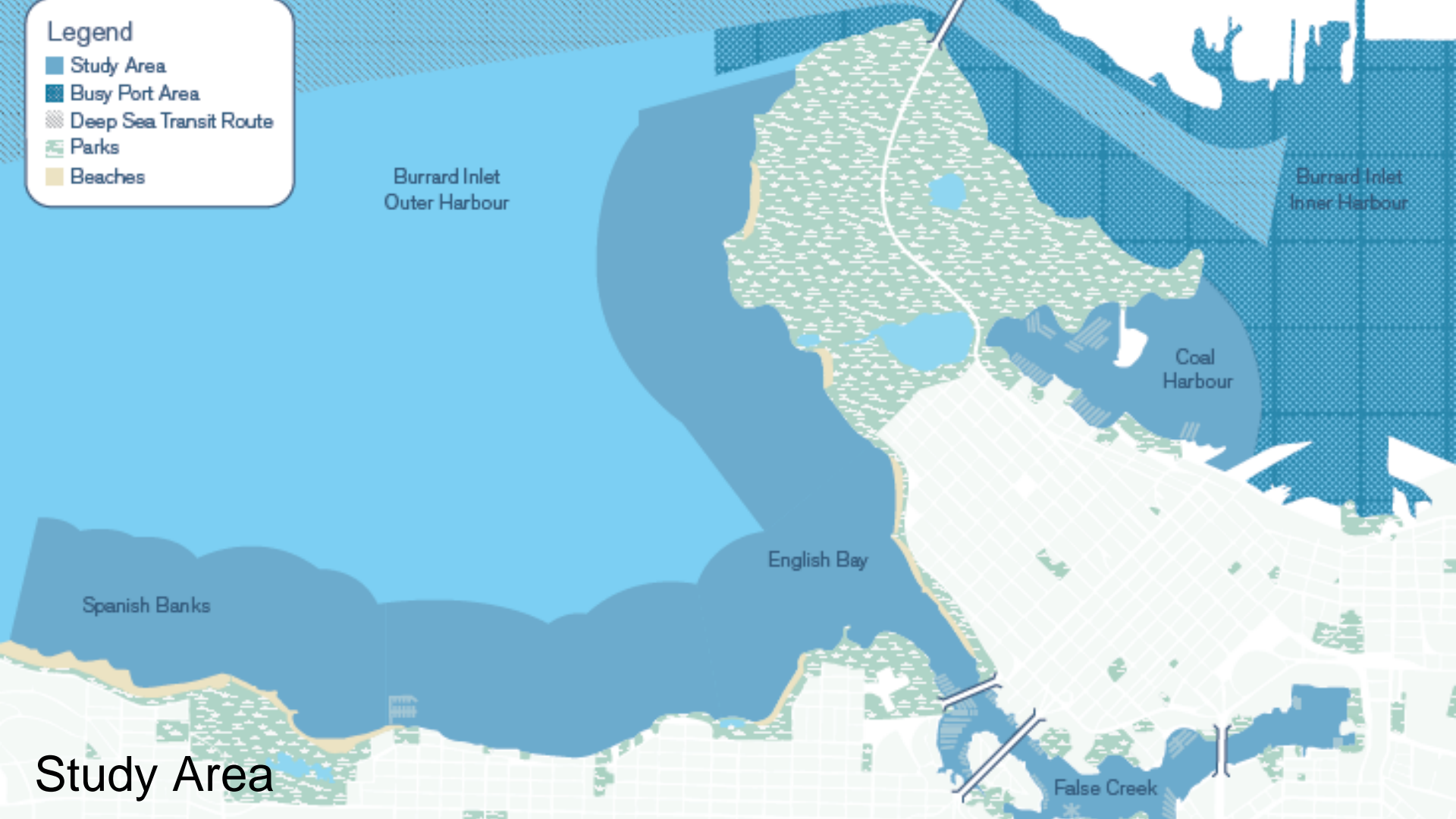
Develop final draft report,
incorporate public feedback +
refine Strategies

Phase 3

Collaborate with Advisory Committee

Legend

- Study Area
- Busy Port Area
- Deep Sea Transit Route
- Parks
- Beaches



Study Area

Background

Jurisdiction and responsibility

	Park Board	City of Vancouver	Transport Canada	Port of Vancouver	BC FLNRO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Vancouver Police Dept.
Moorage + anchoring	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Access points + launching	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ecology / wildlife	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Water quality	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Abandoned boats	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Permits for events	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Marine structures	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Enforcement of safety regulations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

BC FLNRO: BC Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resources Operations & Rural
Development



Has primary responsibility



Shares some responsibility



A stakeholder, but no responsibility

Strategy Overview



Canoeing



Kite Surfing



Rowing



Dragon Boating



Outrigging



Wind Surfing



Kayaking



Paddle
Boarding



Small Craft
Sailing

Definition: “non-motorized watercraft” is defined as on-water recreation activities involving small watercraft powered by people and other natural elements.

THE VISION

Vancouver's marine environment is treasured
as *THE* place for non-motorized watercraft
experiences for all.



Direction 1

Expand opportunities and participation.

Vancouver encourages all people to engage in non-motorized watercraft recreation. Facilities, amenities, and services will increase opportunities for many types of users.



Direction 2

Increase physical access to the water.

Vancouver celebrates the water's edge by improving and creating new connections between people and the waterfront.



Direction 3

Improve safety.

Vancouver provides safe and healthy non-motorized watercraft recreation.



Direction 4

Protect and enhance the environment.

Vancouver is a place where non-motorized watercraft recreation protects and enhances the natural environment.



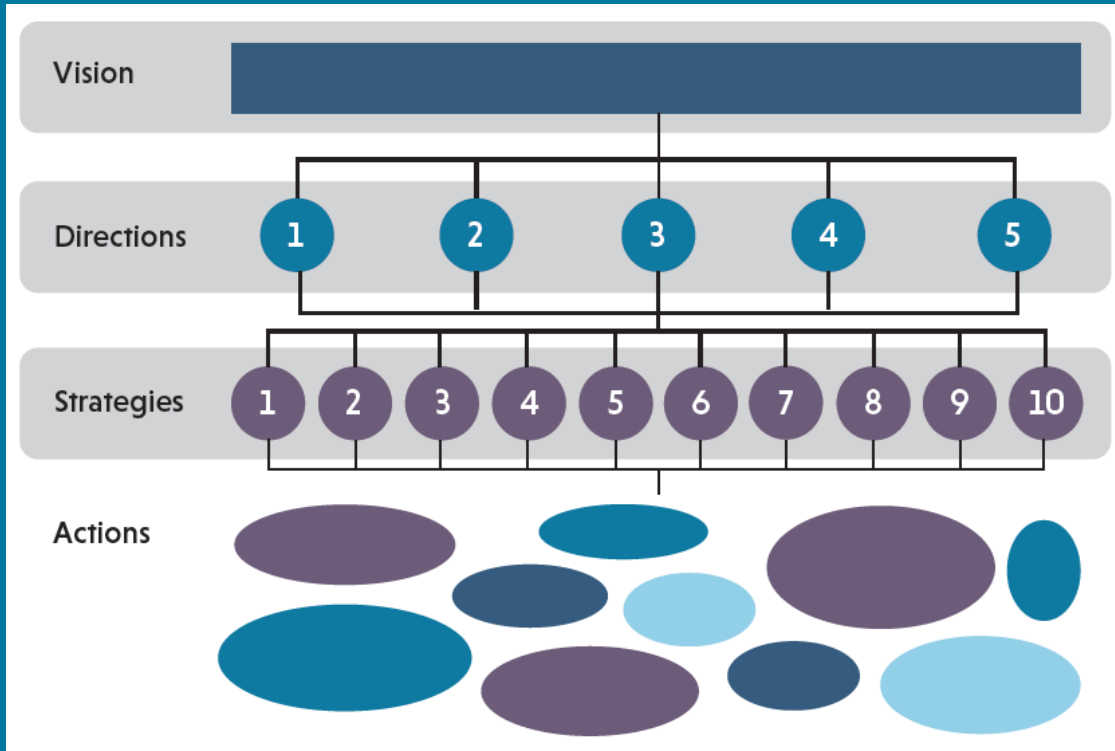
Direction 5

Foster opportunities to socialize and build community.

Vancouverites connect through non-motorized watercraft recreation.

Strategy Overview

Framework



Strategy Overview

Framework

Direction 4 Protect and enhance the environment.

Vision

Directions

Strategies

Actions

PARK BOARD LED

Actions developed and delivered by the Park Board.

PARK BOARD ENABLED

Actions co-developed and co-delivered by the Park Board.

PARK BOARD SUPPORTED

Actions supported and advocated for by the Park Board.

Strategy 7

Support remediation, enhancement and protection of marine and shoreline habitat.
Also supports Directions 1 and 5.

7.1 Create more naturalized shoreline areas and inter-tidal wetland habitat in Vancouver parks to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality.

cost time
\$ \$

7.2 Consider using the Green Shores certification program for shoreline enhancement projects.

\$

7.3 Design waterfront Park Board facilities and docks using environmentally-sensitive design practices.

\$

7.4 Promote shoreline enhancement and restoration projects.

7.5 Support and guide actions that will increase fish and wildlife protection, including consideration of migratory birds, along Vancouver's waterfront.

7.6 Support the development of a shoreline grading system based on the ecological sensitivity of Vancouver's riparian and nearshore habitat, which could inform the siting and management of new projects.

7.7 Support new policies that require environmental carrying capacity studies for proposals to expand existing or develop new marinas.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 1 Provide facilities that serve all users.

- 1.1 Facility and accessibility assessments to establish priorities for action.
- 1.2 Universal accessibility into design and maintenance
- 1.3 Equal access for all non-motorized watercraft users at facilities and docks.
- 1.4 Opportunities for new and improved public facilities.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 1 Provide facilities that serve all users.

Park Board Supported

1.5 False Creek Plan, establishing a vision, strategies, area designations, and policies for motorized and non-motorized watercraft access and use throughout False Creek, considering future growth and development.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 2 Provide and support programs and services for diverse activities and abilities.

- 2.1 Include programs and services for diverse users at new facilities
- 2.2 Reduce financial barriers to participation water-based recreation programs, (e.g. Park Board's Leisure Access Program).
- 2.3 Diverse recreation programs for all ages and abilities, and specifically learn-to-paddle programs.

PARK BOARD SUPPORTED

- 2.5 Encourage equipment share programs for multiple non-motorized watercraft activities.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 3 Share information to enhance the quality and diversity of on-water experiences.

3.1 Seek opportunities to partner with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to foster public education.

Park Board Supported

3.3 Support developing an online interactive map and web-based resources for nonmotorized watercraft users.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 4 Increase access points for non-motorized watercraft along Vancouver's water edge.

- 4.1 Park land acquisition at Vancouver's waterfront.
- 4.2 Designated launch areas at beaches and parks.
- 4.3 Temporary watercraft drop-off and storage areas at launch points.
- 4.4 Dedicated space for short-term moorage and storage at key destinations.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 5 Communicate and share information necessary for safe non-motorized watercraft recreation.

5.1 Permanent signage at Park Board facilities to identify safe launch points and recreation areas.

Park Board Enabled

5.4 As advised by Vancouver Coastal Health, encourage hand washing after participating in water recreation activities in False Creek.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 6 Support more efficient management and greater enforcement of marine regulations.

6.1 More formal, ongoing coordination and collaboration with regulatory partners.

Park Board Supported

6.3 Pilot projects to test potential management systems.

6.4 Collaborate with the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP to improve the efficiency, transparency and consistency of bylaw enforcement.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 7 Support remediation, enhancement and protection of marine and shoreline habitat.

7.1 More naturalized shorelines and inter-tidal wetland habitat.

7.2 Certification program for shoreline enhancement projects.

7.3 Use environmentally-sensitive design practices.

Park Board Enabled

7.4 Promote shoreline enhancement and restoration projects.

7.5 Support and guide actions that will increase fish and wildlife protection.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 8 Encourage and support environmental stewardship.

8.1 Beach stewardship program.

8.2 Floating markers to identify environmentally sensitive areas and encourage safe and respectful activity.

8.3 More educational information and on-site resources to help protect the environment and reduce pollution.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 8 Encourage and support environmental stewardship.

Park Board Enabled

8.5 Establish responsibilities for removing litter from False Creek.

Park Board Supported

8.7 Continued collaborative work to improve local water quality.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 9 Expand cooperation with and among stakeholders.

9.1 Stakeholder and partner agreements that clarify responsibilities, accountability, equity, and financial responsibilities.

Park Board Enabled

9.2 New On Water User Group to promote collaboration among the Park Board and partners.

Strategy Overview - Strategies and Actions

Strategy 10 Support engagement and community building to promote non-motorized watercraft use.

10.1 Unique needs and limitations of non-residents and benefits of non-motorized watercraft tourism.

10.2 Integrating social spaces for non-motorized watercraft users at facilities.

Park Board Enabled

10.3 Support multiple, compatible non-motorized watercraft uses at shared facilities.

Public Engagement

PARTICIPATION:

don't participate, but have participated in the past

22%

don't participate, but are interested in participating in the future

16%

currently participate

62%



- Who was involved
- What we did and when we did it
- What we heard

Public Engagement – Regulatory Working Group



Transport
Canada



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada



PORT of
vancouver

Public Engagement – Advisory Group



- False Creek Racing Canoe Club
- False Creek Rowing Club
- Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society
- Jericho Sailing Centre
- Vancouver Rowing Club
- Ecomarine Paddlesport Centres
- BC Mobility Opportunities Society
- Nautical Residents of False Creek
- Tourism Vancouver

Public Engagement - Process

Summer
2017

Spring
2019
Park Board
Consideration



Public Engagement - Process

Summer
2017

1

What do you do?
Where do you do it?
What is working
well? What is not
working well?

Public
Engagement

Develop draft
Strategies and Actions

Phase 2

Public
Engagement

Develop final draft report,
incorporate public feedback +
refine Strategies

Phase 3

Spring
2019
Park Board
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Public Engagement - Process

Summer
2017

1

What do you do?
Where do you do it?
What is working
well? What is not
working well?

Committee

2

What do you think
about the draft
Vision and Strategic
Directions? What
ideas do you have
for Strategies and
Actions?

Public
Engagement

Develop final draft report,
incorporate public feedback +
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Phase 3

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Public Engagement - Process

Summer
2017

1

What do you do?
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Committee

2

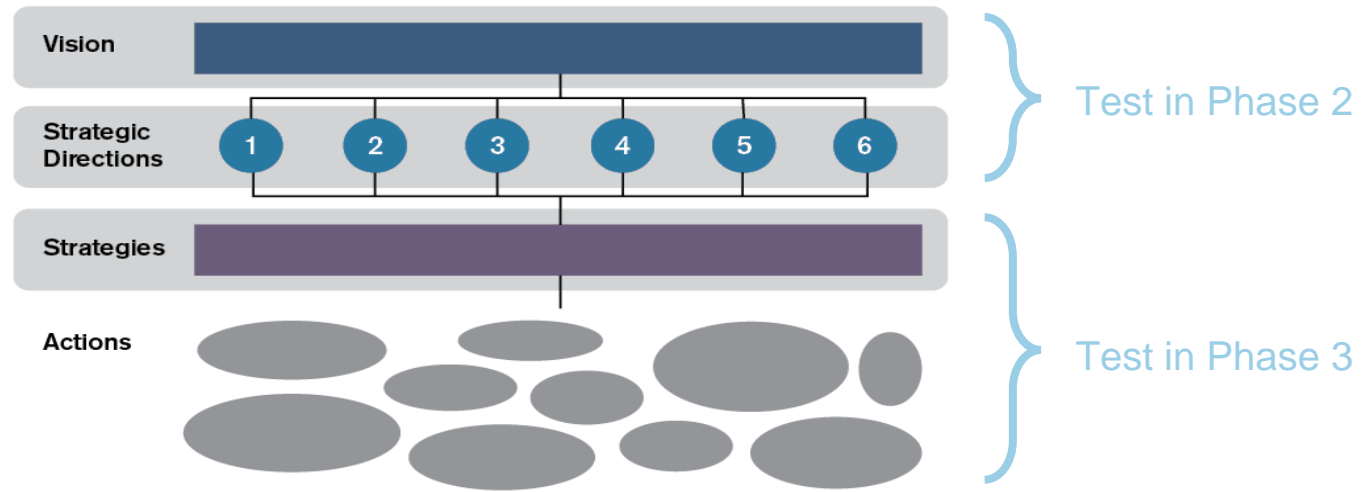
What do you think
about the draft
Vision and Strategic
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3

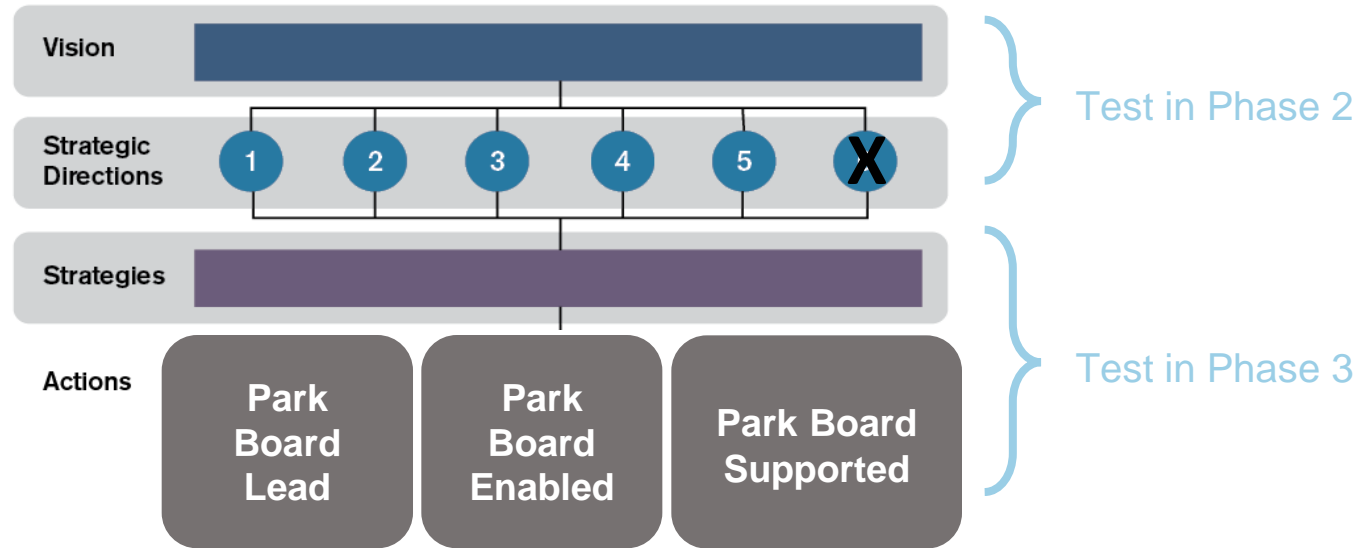
What do you think
about the draft
strategies and
actions? Did we
miss anything?
What are your
priorities?

Spring
2019
Park Board
Consideration

Public Engagement Framework



Public Engagement Framework



Public Engagement - Events

Surveys

Round 1, June 15 to August 30, 1246 respondents

Round 2, Feb 19 - Mar 16, 942 respondents

Round 3, May 21 – July 2, 2018, 487 respondents

Open Houses / Workshops

Creekside Community Centre, False Creek Community Centre, City Lab, Jericho Sailing Centre

Pop Up Open House

Head up the Creek Regatta, Dragon Boat Festival, Paddlefest,

City Advisory Committees

Mobility Access Working Group
Children & Youth Advisory Committee

Public Engagement - Events

Open Houses and Workshops



Public Engagement - Phase 1

Feedback - Popular Activities

The top three activities respondents **participate in** (respondents could select more than one) were:



53%
Kayaking



33%
Paddle
boarding



32%
Canoeing



34%
Kayaking



15%
Sailing



13%
Dragon boating

When asked to select one **favourite** non-motorized boating activity, the top three activities became:

Public Engagement - Phase 2

Feedback - Vision



85% of survey respondents felt the vision statement captured what non-motorized watercraft activity should be in the future.

(37% very well, 48% fairly well)

Public Engagement - Phase 3

Feedback - Actions



80% of respondents felt the Actions captured their aspiration for non-motorized watercraft activity in the future.

Public Engagement - Phase 3

Feedback - Actions

Top three themes for other on-water ideas:

- Improve launch site amenities.
- Increase / improve physical access to the water.
- More launch / land sites.

Top three themes for other comments respondents would like to share:

- Improve access for all to non-motorized watercraft recreation.
- General support for the process / strategy.
- New/more services / infrastructure at launch sites.

Next Steps

Quick start projects:

- On Water user map
- Facility & accessibility assessments, prioritize maintenance and improvements
- Alder Bay Dock adjacent to the False Creek CC
- On Water programs in Leisure access program
- More learn-to-paddle programs
- Designated launch areas at beaches and parks
- Update to site signage to ID safe launch points and non-motorized watercraft recreation areas



Implementation Plan

- Responsibility
- Supporting Policy/Project
- Timing

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve “On Water, Vancouver’s Non-motorized Watercraft Recreation Strategy”, as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A, to guide the planning and design of non-motorized recreation facilities and programs in Vancouver; and
- B. THAT the Board endorse the 10-year Implementation Plan attached within Appendix A, as the basis for submissions to future Capital budgets, the City’s 2023-2032 Capital Strategic Outlook and future capital plans.



