



*Killarney Park*

VANCOUVER PARK BOARD

# TRACK+FIELD

STRATEGY

Supporting and Developing  
Athletics in Vancouver

Park Board Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 30, 2019



To provide an overview of the **Vancouver Park Board Track + Field Strategy**, and seek Board approval of the proposed strategy along with the proposed new and upgraded track and field facilities.

1. Background
2. Need for the Strategy
3. Strategy Process
4. Strategy Overview
  - Vision and Guiding Principles
  - Strategic Themes
  - Recommendations
5. Engagement Results
6. Implementation & Next Steps

# Background



- 2016 Board Motion:

*“...investigate the opportunity to construct a new competitive track and field facility in Vancouver...” and “work with the sport community in Vancouver, ... for their consultation and input, and report back to the Board with recommendations at the earliest opportunity.”*

- History of cooperative effort between the Park Board and the Vancouver School Board (VSB)
- The Strategy supports:
  - City of Vancouver Healthy City Strategy (2014)
  - Vancouver Sport Strategy (2008)
  - VanPlay (ongoing)

## Background

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## Vancouver has a rich history in Track & Field

- 1938: Barbara Howard, first black woman to represent Canada in international competition
- 1954: Miracle Mile race featuring Roger Bannister and John Landy

### Background

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## VANCOUVER PARK BOARD SITE

- 1 - Balaclava Park
- 3 - Brockton Oval
- 8 - Empire Fields
- 9 - Killarney Park
- 10 - Memorial South Park
- 12 - Strathcona Park
- 13 - Templeton Park

## VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD SITE

- 2 - Britannia Secondary School
- 4 - Camosun Park
- 5 - Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School
- 6 - Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School
- 7 - Eric Hamber Secondary School\*
- 11 - Kerrisdale Park/Point Grey Secondary School
- 14 - Vancouver Technical Secondary School

\*Not included due to seismic upgrades

# Background: Existing facilities



# Need for the Strategy





## Importance of Track and Field

- Engagement in sports for kids improves:
  - Capacity for learning
  - Skills to cope with anxiety and withstand stress
  - Ability to work well with others
  - Self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-discipline
- Early and ongoing participation in physical activities create active adults who:
  - Are healthier
  - Have stronger social ties to their community
  - Have greater sense of well-being
- Track and field facilities are inclusive and low barrier

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# Strategy Process

## Objective

**Develop a long-range strategy for track & field sports & facilities in Vancouver, to support a bright future for participants & athletes.**

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## Scope



Assess current conditions.



Develop a vision.



Identify current gaps.



Understand participation by competitive athletes and a diverse range of users.



Evaluate access to facilities across of Vancouver.



Identify best practices: accessible, diverse and quality amenities and services.



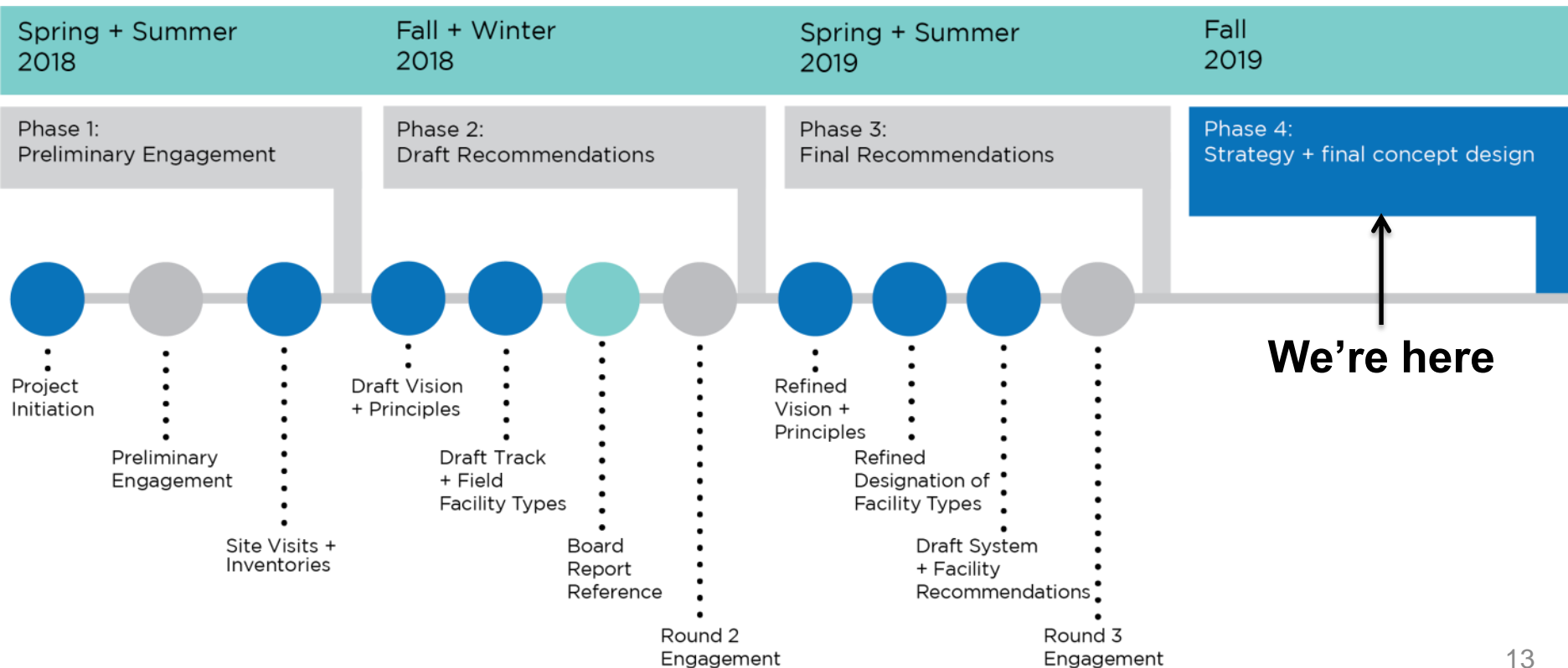
Identify future needs.



Develop a 10-year implementation plan, including locating a competitive training facility.



## Timeline



# Strategy Overview

## Vision

**Vancouver's exceptional track and field facilities and activities attract and welcome all levels of track and field users, while helping Vancouver athletes grow to their fullest potential.**

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## Principles



Provide Equitable Access



Strengthen Partnerships



Support the Growth of Track & Field in Vancouver



Complement Citywide Initiatives and Recreation Strategies



Inspire All Athletes



Celebrate the Past & Foster the Future

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VANCOUVER PARK BOARD

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STRATEGY



## Strategic Themes:

1. **Design and Infrastructure**
2. **Access and Participation**
3. **Programming and Cooperation**
4. **Management and Operations**

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### **Strategy Overview**

1. Design & Infrastructure
2. Access & Participation
3. Programming & Cooperation
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**1. Design & Infrastructure**

2. Access & Participation

3. Programming &  
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4. Management &  
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## 1. Design and Infrastructure

Establish 3 categories for the 14 existing facilities:





**C**

## Amenities:

- Low impact surfacing
- Long jump pits
- Wayfinding and signage
- Site furnishings



**B**

## All amenities of a Class 'C' facility, plus:

- 6-lane marked track
- Temp. seating space
- Storage space
- Washrooms
- Lighting
- Jumping and throwing event space



**A**

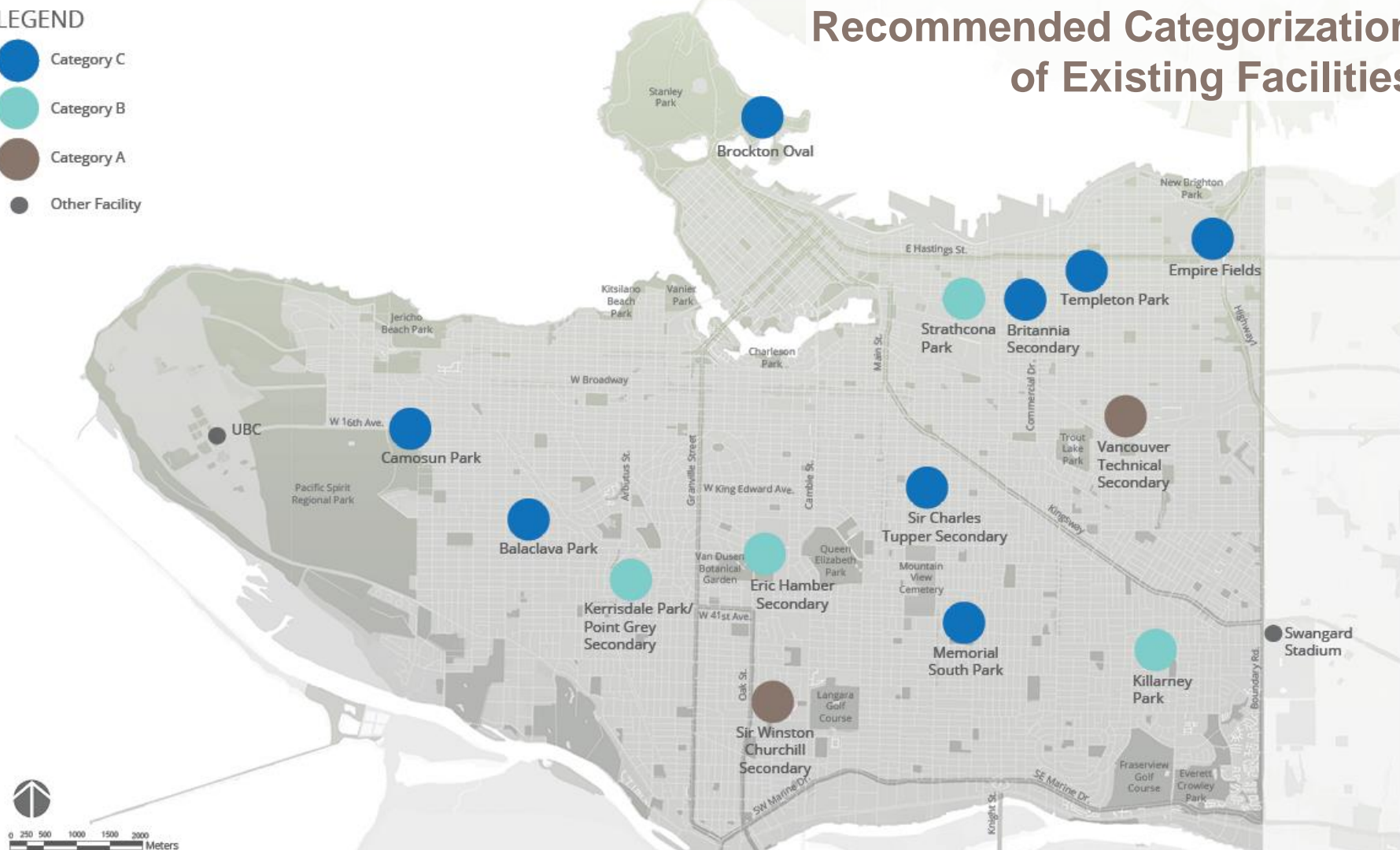
## All amenities of Class 'B' & 'C' facilities, plus:

- 8-lane marked track
- Spectator seating
- Change rooms
- Ancillary building space
- Full jumping and throwing event space

## LEGEND

- Category C
- Category B
- Category A
- Other Facility

## Recommended Categorization of Existing Facilities





## 2. Access & Participation

- Assess site options for facilities based on **‘site classification criteria’**
  - Land availability, size and capacity
  - Potential for programming
  - Location synergies with other facilities
  - Site accessibility
  - Capital cost
- Prioritize capital investments based on **‘investment priority criteria’**
  - Demand and demonstrated needs
  - Equal geographic distribution
  - Health and Safety

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**2. Access & Participation**

3. Programming &  
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## 3. Programming & Cooperation

- Work with collaborators to increase participation in track and field and related athletic activities:
  - New and entry level outdoor programming
  - Coordinated initiatives between the Park Board, City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board and track and field clubs
  - Fostering collaborative relationships with neighbouring municipalities and institutions celebrating Vancouver's rich track and field history
  - Building an inclusive reputation

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- 3. Programming & Cooperation**
4. Management & Operations

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## 4. Management & Operations

- Track and Field Allocation and Management Policy
- Shared-use agreements with the VSB
- Long-term capital maintenance and renewal plans
- On-site staff positions
- Annual maintenance and operating plans
- Allocation of appropriate resources

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- 4. Management & Operations**

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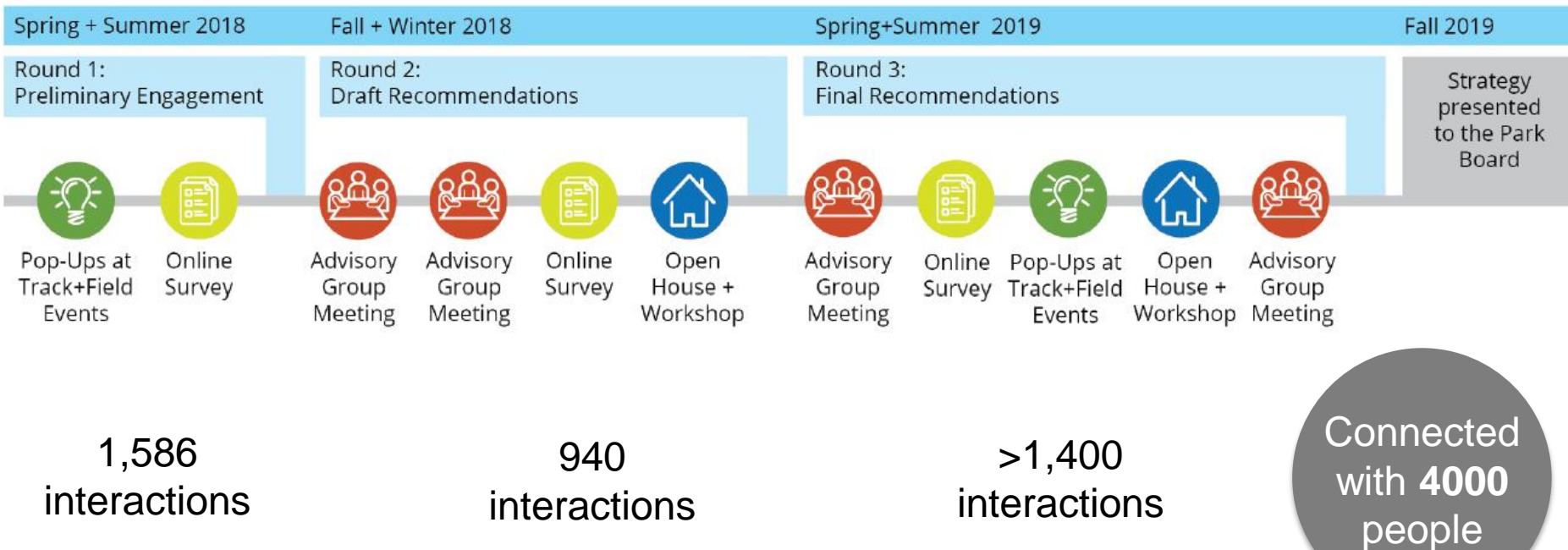


# Engagement Results





# Engagement Results – Summary



- Achilles International Track & Field Society
- Thunderbirds Track and Field Club
- UBC Track and Field Alumni Association
- Vancouver School Board
- BC Wheelchair Sports Association
- BC Athletics
- Exceleation Triathlon and Multi-Sport Club
- Vancouver Olympic Club/New West Spartan Track and Field
- UBC Track and Field Club
- Mile2Marathon Running Club
- Vancouver Sport Network

## Advisory Group Members

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## Round 1 Engagement Key Findings

- People participate in **all four seasons & at all times of day**.
- Participants **live all across the city**.
- People also **travel to facilities outside of Vancouver** such as UBC's Dhillon track, Swangard Stadium and Minoru Oval to participate, particularly for competitions.
- People in Vancouver enjoy the **health benefits and social aspects** of track and field participation, and that it is **low cost** and **low barrier**. The **social, health, and team aspects** were also important for those who answered the kids' survey.

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## Round 2 Engagement Key Findings

- Strong **support for the draft principles.**
- Respondents want **equitable access and an improved distribution of facilities.**
- Including “**all levels**” of **track and field users** in the vision is important.
- The most important activities identified by survey respondents were **recreation and training.**
- The top criteria for determining what facilities to prioritize for improvements are:
  - Proximity to a **community facility or school**
  - Those that improve **equitable access** citywide
  - **Transit** accessibility

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## Round 3 Engagement Key Findings

- Strong support for sites to accommodate competition:

<i>Level of agreement</i>	<b>benefit local residents</b>	<b>benefit users city wide</b>	<b>meet needs of organized track and field user groups</b>	<b>displace users</b>
Churchill	70%	68%	67%	24%
Van Tech	69%	69%	68%	23%

- The most important facility improvement for recreation and training facilities for users is **better track surfacing**. Other desired amenities are washrooms, drinking water stations, and lighting.
- Reasons for support included the **benefits to health and well-being** and **reducing travel time** for participants.

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## How did feedback influence the strategy?

### Feedback

### Strategy Response

Expand opportunities for people of all abilities.



Balanced improvements to track facilities of each category C, B and A.

Improve the geographic distribution of facilities.



Balances geography, while aligning with other projects.

Most desired upgrade is surface improvements, specifically more “rubberized” surfaces.



Surfacing improvements recommended at many sites. Recommend low impact looping trails be incorporated in new parks and park renewals.

The principle “Strengthen Partnerships” received the highest level of support. VSB was cited as a key partner.



Recommend formalizing partnership between Park Board and the Vancouver School Board for category B and A facilities.

## What feedback was not addressed?

- Lack of additional track capacity on the west side of Vancouver
- No upgrades planned for Camosun Park

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# Implementation & Next Steps



## Facility Improvements Priorities

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Templeton Park ➡ upgrade to a category C facility

Kerrisdale Park/Point Grey Secondary School ➡ upgrade to a category B facility

Vancouver Technical Secondary School ➡ build a category A facility

# LEGEND

--- Site Boundary

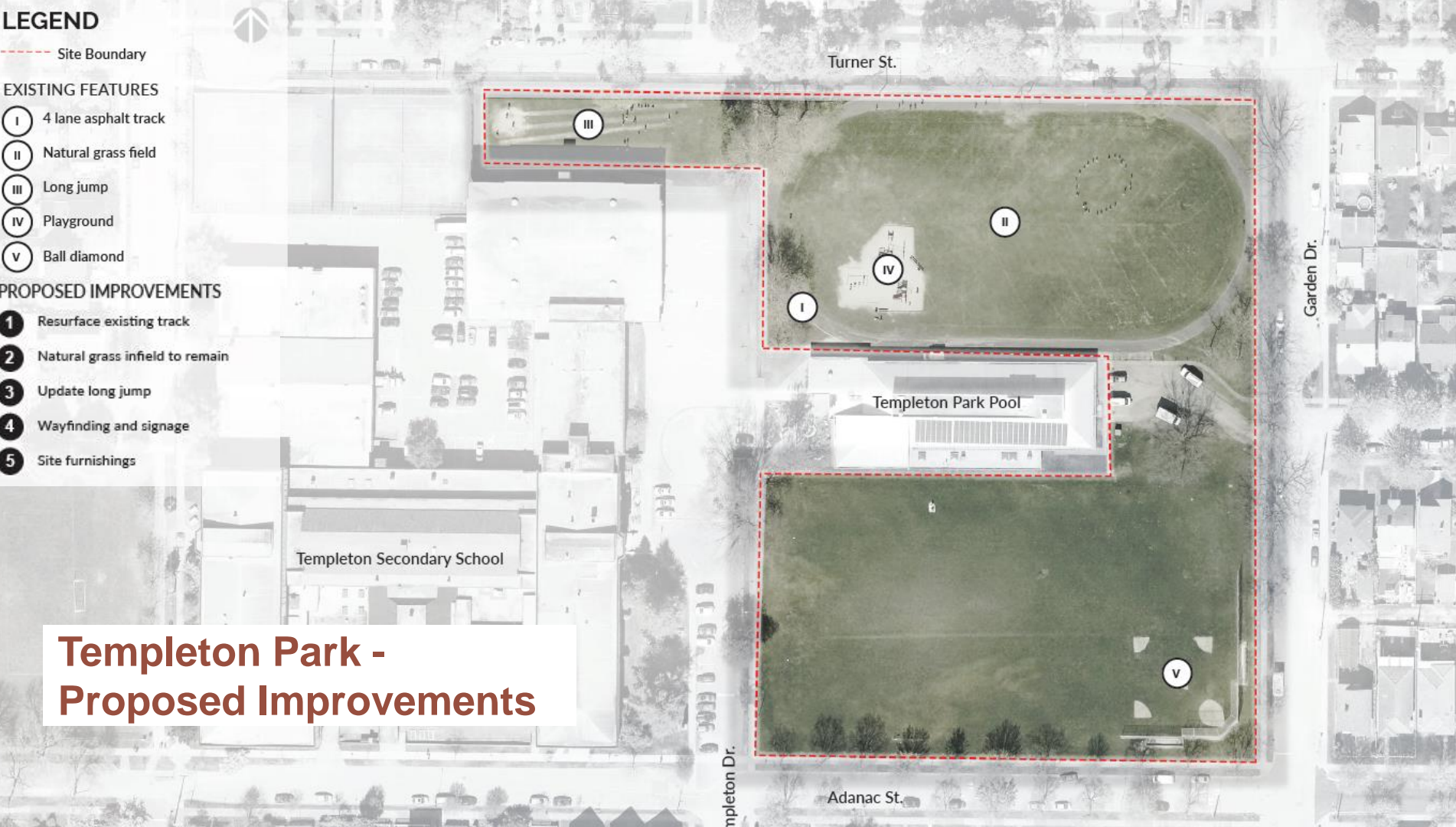
## EXISTING FEATURES

- I 4 lane asphalt track
- II Natural grass field
- III Long jump
- IV Playground
- V Ball diamond

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- 1 Resurface existing track
- 2 Natural grass infield to remain
- 3 Update long jump
- 4 Wayfinding and signage
- 5 Site furnishings

# Templeton Park - Proposed Improvements





# LEGEND

Site Boundary

Representation — Point Grey Proposed Training

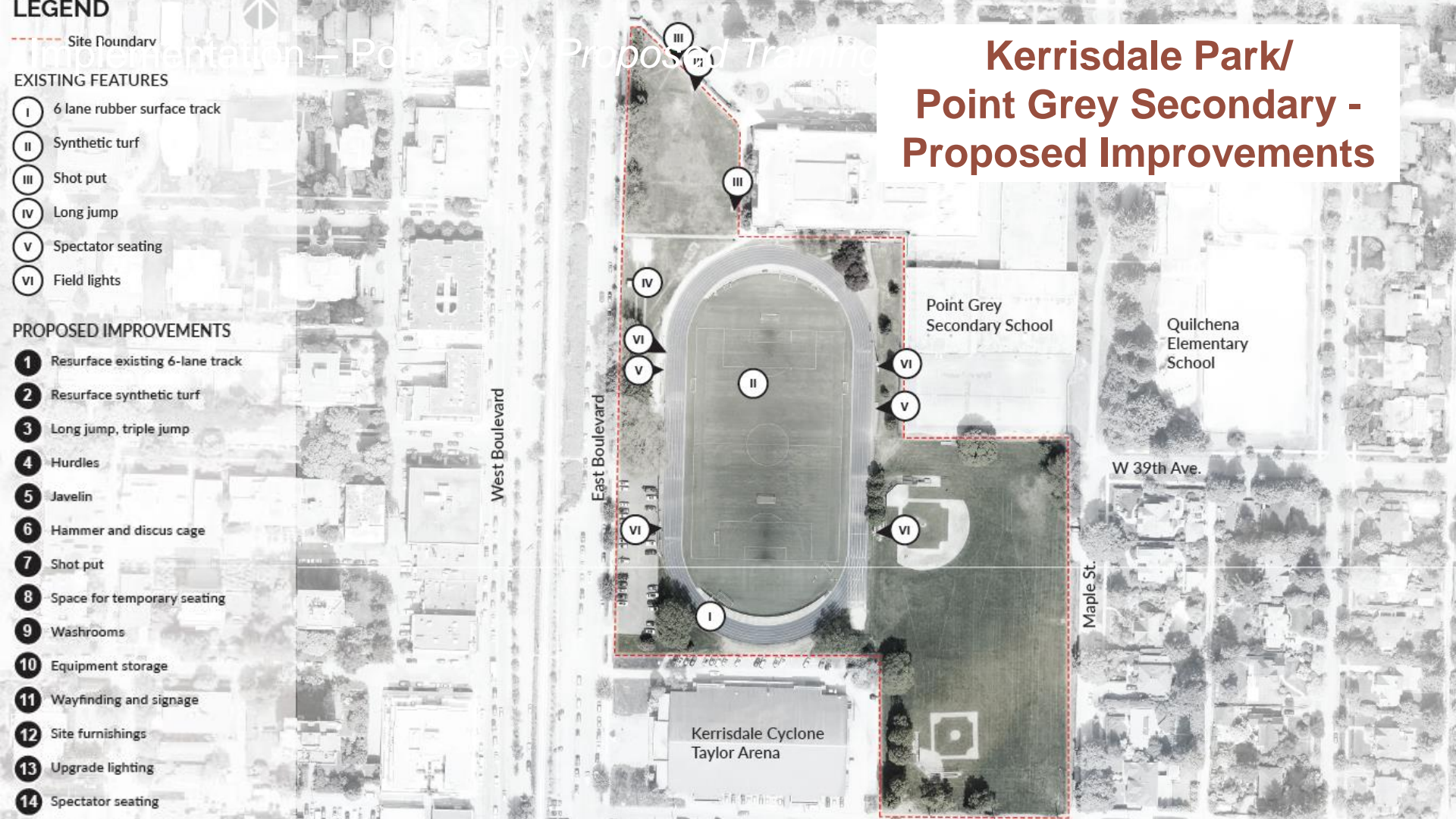
## EXISTING FEATURES

- I 6 lane rubber surface track
- II Synthetic turf
- III Shot put
- IV Long jump
- V Spectator seating
- VI Field lights

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- 1 Resurface existing 6-lane track
- 2 Resurface synthetic turf
- 3 Long jump, triple jump
- 4 Hurdles
- 5 Javelin
- 6 Hammer and discus cage
- 7 Shot put
- 8 Space for temporary seating
- 9 Washrooms
- 10 Equipment storage
- 11 Wayfinding and signage
- 12 Site furnishings
- 13 Upgrade lighting
- 14 Spectator seating

# Kerrisdale Park/ Point Grey Secondary - Proposed Improvements





# Implementation & Next Steps – Proposed Competition Facility

## Vancouver Technical Secondary

### LEGEND

--- Site Boundary

#### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- 400m Long, 8 Lane Track with Rubberized (Synthetic) Surface
- Long Jump and Triple Jump
- High Jump
- Pole Vault
- Steeplechase
- Shot Put
- Hammer and Discus Cage
- Javelin
- Natural Grass Throws Landing Area
- Facility Lighting
- Spectator Seating
- Ancillary Building / Equipment Storage
- Stairs
- Ramp with Retaining Wall
- Retained Slope
- Hurdles
- Site Furnishings
- Wayfinding and Signage

## To be brought to Park Board for decision:

- Vancouver Technical Secondary
  - Conceptual plan and cost estimate
  - Contract award recommendations
- Kerrisdale Park/Point Grey Secondary
  - Contract award recommendations
- Templeton Park
  - Contract award recommendations

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**Implementation & Next Steps**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the “Vancouver Track and Field Strategy,” as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A, to guide the planning, programming, operations and maintenance of track and field facilities in Vancouver;
- B. THAT the Board approve Vancouver Technical Secondary School as the site for building a new Category A track and field facility, as described in Appendix A, subject to Vancouver Board of Education approval, and a shared use agreement;
- C. THAT the Board approve the prioritization of upgrades to the track and field facility at Kerrisdale Park and Point Grey Secondary School, to bring it in line with a category B facility as described in Appendix A, subject to Vancouver Board of Education approval, and a shared use agreement; and
- D. THAT the Board approve the prioritization of upgrades to the track and field facility at Templeton Park to bring it in line with a category C facility as described in Appendix A, adjacent to Templeton Secondary School and Templeton Pool.





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