



LIQUOR CONSUMPTION IN PARKS

By-law and
Pilot Program

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2020



Purpose of the Presentation



- To provide an overview of the proposed amendments to the Parks Control By-law regarding liquor consumption in parks, and the proposed Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program; and
- To seek Board decision on the proposed by-law amendments and the proposed pilot program, which includes designating ten (10) pilot sites within parks.

Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. Discussion
 - Jurisdiction & Approach
 - Site Selection Process
 - Proposed Pilot Sites
 - Proposed Pilot Duration, Hours and Communication Tools
 - Regulation and Enforcement
 - External Consultation
3. Next Steps
4. Recommendation

1. Background



1. Background

- Physical distancing in response to COVID-19 limits ability to socialize indoors.
- Many Vancouverites have no access to private outdoor space for socializing and leisure.
- Google mobility data indicates park use has increased from 50-70% province-wide.

1. Background – Previous Decisions

- Park Board Motion: Alcohol Consumption at Vancouver Parks & Beaches – December 17, 2018
 - staff to conduct feasibility study for a pilot project for public consumption of alcoholic beverages in select parks and beaches.
- Park Board Briefing Memo: Alcohol Consumption at Parks and Beaches – May 25, 2020
 - staff working group convened and jurisdictional gap identified
- Council Motion: Allowing Responsible Alcohol Consumption in Vancouver Parks and Beaches – May 26, 2020
 - Encouraged the Park Board to initiate a timely pilot project to allow alcohol consumption in select parks and beaches within Park Board jurisdiction

2. Discussion: Jurisdiction & Approach



2. Discussion - Liquor Control & Licensing Act & Jurisdiction



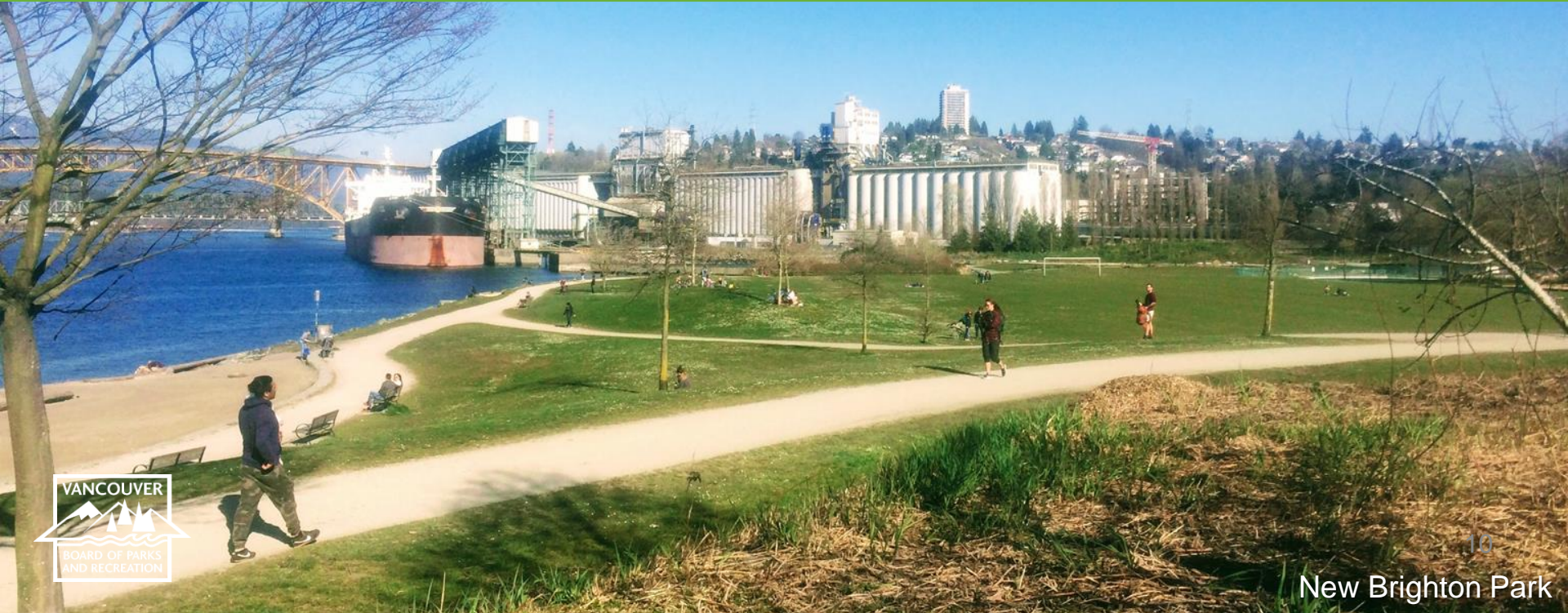
- The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is governed by the *BC Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.
- The Act allows for a municipality or regional district to pass related bylaws.
- Due to the Park Board's unique governance framework -- being neither a municipality nor a regional district -- a request has been submitted for the Province to amend the Act accordingly to allow the Park Board to proceed.

2. Discussion - Approach

- Developed selection criteria for pilot sites
- Identified legal, logistical, societal, enforcement, and financial considerations



2. Discussion: Site Selection Process



2. Discussion - Pilot Site Selection Criteria



All Park Board park sites were considered through GIS analysis, and were selected / eliminated through the following criteria:

- a. Highly visible, non-remote locations with emergency vehicle access;
- b. Distribution of locations city-wide to provide equitable access;
- c. Washroom facilities nearby;
- d. Features & amenities appealing for socializing (views, benches, picnic sites);
- e. Pedestrian, cycling, and public transit access nearby;
- f. parking for accessibility nearby;
- g. food & beverage services nearby;
- h. Minimal impacts to natural areas, purpose-built, and/or programmable spaces;
- i. Minimal impacts/disruptions to neighbouring residents;
- j. Minimum 20m from playgrounds;
- k. Not adjacent to schools;
- l. No bathing beaches (for aquatic safety reasons);
- m. No primary special event venues.

2. Discussion: Proposed Pilot Sites



Liquor Consumption Pilot Sites

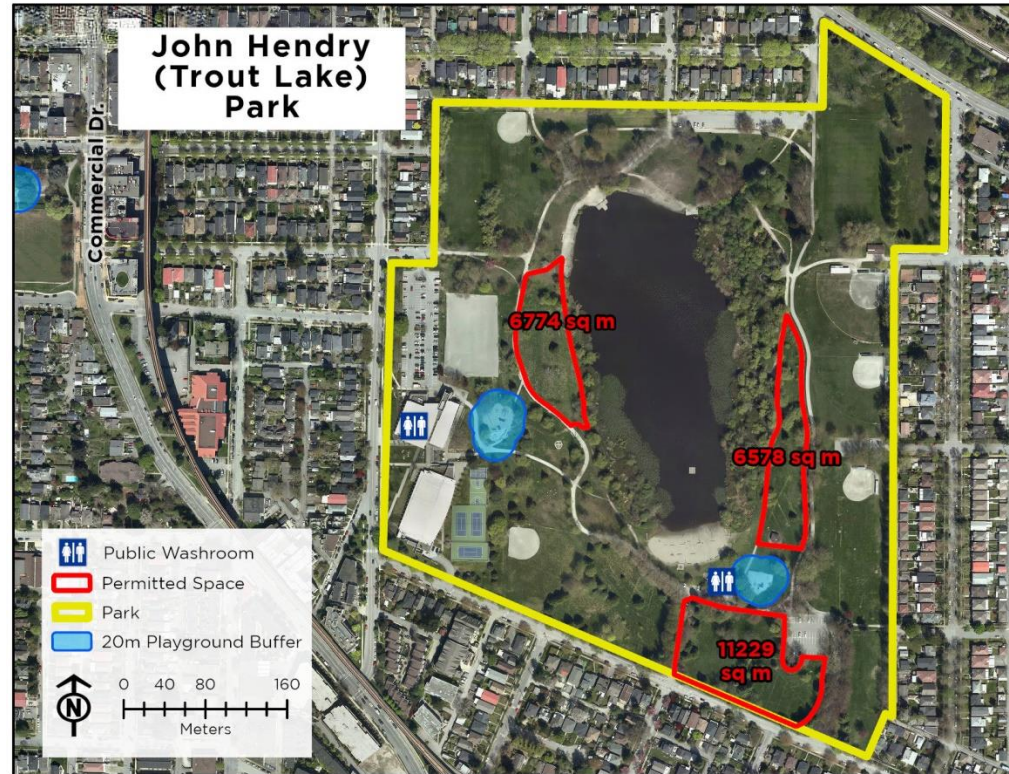
★ Parks with proposed pilot sites



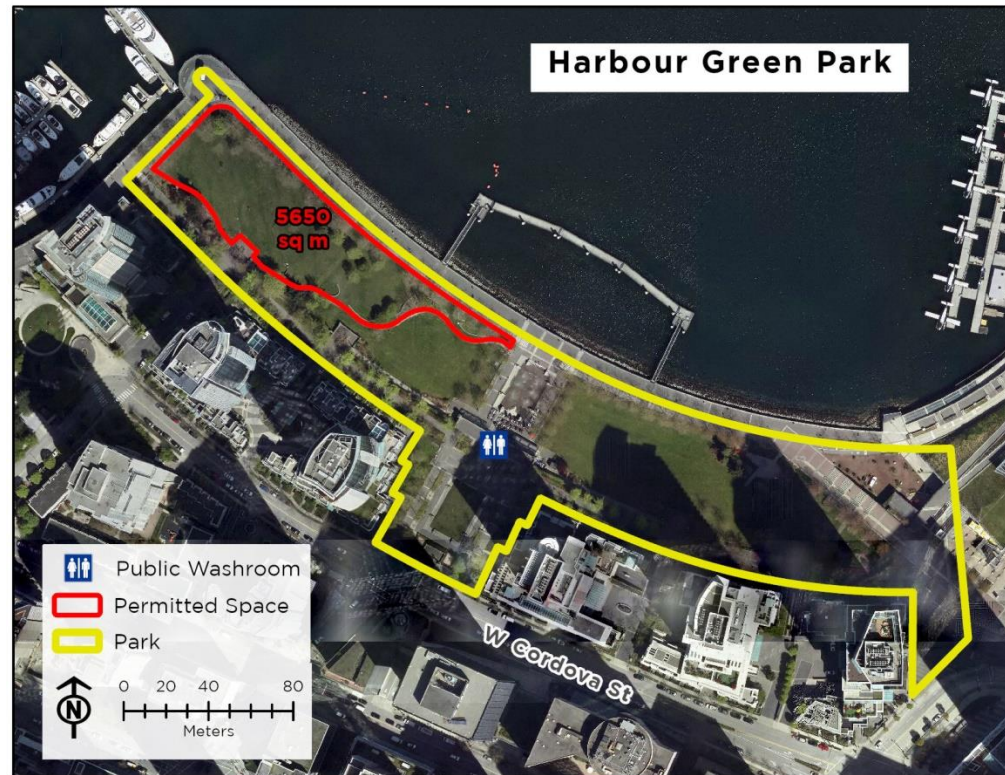
Proposed Pilot Site 1: Fraser River Park



Proposed Pilot Site 2: John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park



Proposed Pilot Site 3: Harbour Green Park



Proposed Pilot Site 4: Locarno Beach Park



Proposed Pilot Site 5: Memorial South Park



Proposed Pilot Site 6: New Brighton Park



Proposed Pilot Site 7: Queen Elizabeth Park



Proposed Pilot Site 8: Quilchena Park



Proposed Pilot Site 9: Stanley Park (southwest)



Proposed Pilot Site 10: Vanier Park



2. Discussion: Pilot Proposed Duration, Hours & Communication Tools



2. Discussion - Duration, Hours & Communication Tools



- If approved, the proposed pilot could be implemented as soon as mid-July,
 - Conditional on the necessary amendments to the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.
- The pilot would run from 11am to 9pm daily, until October 12, 2020.
- Signage would be posted both onsite and online to clearly identify the pilot site areas, regulations, and contact information.

2. Discussion - Duration, Hours & Communication Tools



- The monitoring and data gathering activities would include:
 - **Park Ranger observations**, and service call and response metrics
 - **Public feedback** received via 311, online web forms, and direct to staff
 - Onsite **signage** will include contact information for feedback
 - A **webpage** will be developed to provide information and to collect feedback
 - Consultation with park **business partners**, **internal stakeholders** and **external stakeholders** will be undertaken
 - Feedback from **Musqueam**, **Squamish** and **Tsleil-Waututh** Nations will be sought.



2. Discussion: Regulation and Enforcement

2. Discussion - Regulation and Enforcement



- Park Rangers play a key role in informing park users about relevant by-laws and legislation and monitoring parks so they remain safe and accessible for all.
- As it is the responsibility of the Vancouver Police to enforce any issues related to liquor consumption, Rangers will notify them if assistance or enforcement is needed.



2. Discussion: External Consultation

2. Discussion - External Consultation

- Vancouver Coastal Health
 - Cautiously supports a re-examination of alcohol consumption in public places in light of COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Provided input on the site selection criteria.
 - Recommendation to scale the pilot sites down from 10 sites and ensure a strong monitoring and enforcement plan in place; staff will continue discussions.

- Vancouver Police Department
 - Discussions raised some public safety concerns; staff will continue discussions.

- Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service
 - Discussions did not raise any concerns.

- Others as required/appropriate

3. Next Steps



3. Next Steps



- If the proposed “Liquor Consumption in Parks” pilot program and by-law is approved, the proposed by-law will be presented at the Regular Board meeting for the three readings and immediate enactment.
- Staff will Continue with stakeholder consultations and the development of communication tools (signage, website, surveys, etc.) in preparation for a mid-July implementation of the pilot.
- Staff will report back to the Board once the pilot program is up and running.

4. Recommendation

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed amendments to the Parks Control By-Law Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks, as set out in Appendix A of this report, to temporarily designate the park sites listed in the by-law as places where liquor may be consumed;
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to immediately bring forward a by-law for enactment by the Park Board generally in accordance with Appendix A;
- C. THAT, subject to Board adoption of Recommendations A and B above, along with the enactment of the By-law referenced within those Recommendations, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to implement the Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program as outlined in this report.

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board refer the report recommendations back to staff for changes that aim to expand and improve this pilot program, with specific consideration given to:
 - i. Including at least one park in each of the 23 distinct neighborhoods of the city;
 - ii. Limiting the by-law amendment to require that liquor may only be consumed with a meal;
 - iii. Reviewing pilot sites to ensure there is sufficient space for users to observe mandated physical distancing;
 - iv. Identifying a larger, more suitable location to replace the currently proposed location in Vanier Park.

- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board no later than the Committee Meeting scheduled for July 20 for consideration of any revised recommendations.

