

PARKS WASHROOM STRATEGY



Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2020



PURPOSE



To provide an overview of the Parks Washroom Strategy, and seek Board decision on the proposed strategy along with short and long-term recommendations to guide the planning, building, and operation of safe, clean and accessible park washrooms in Vancouver.

OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Policy And Previous Decisions
- Background
- What We Have
- Stakeholder Engagement
- What We Learned
- What We Propose
- Financial Considerations
- Conclusion
- Recommendation



Trillium Park

INTRODUCTION | WHY HAVE A WASHROOM STRATEGY



Renewal: Many existing facilities are at or near the end of their life cycle

Growth: New washrooms are needed to address expected population growth

Changing Needs: Service needs have significantly changed with new behavioural and demographic trends, with increased focus on accessibility, and with learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic

Direction from VanPlay: Asset targets need to be addressed for washrooms in parks to ensure equitable access to facilities by reducing/eliminating barriers

INTRODUCTION | PROJECT VISION

To enable the development of safe, clean, and accessible washroom facilities to enhance the park experience for all.

Objectives:

1. To ensure the highest standard of accessibility
2. To develop a system for renewing and building new facilities
3. To identify under-served areas and prioritize their needs
4. To establish park washroom design recommendations for clean and safe washrooms



POLICY AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS / BACKGROUND



POLICY AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS



- Greenest City Action Plan, 2011
- Building a Path to Parks & Recreation for All: Reducing Barriers for Trans* & Gender Variant Community Members, 2014
- The Renewable City Strategy, 2015
- Trans*, Gender Variant and Two-Spirit Inclusion at the City of Vancouver, 2016
- Zero Emissions buildings Plan, 2016
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan, 2018
- Women's Equity Strategy, 2018
- Climate Emergency Response, 2019
- VanPlay, 2019
- **BC Human Rights Code - amended to ensure protection to access services without discrimination based on gender identity and expression, 2016**

POLICY AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS | VANPLAY



- **Equity:**
“Equity, Inclusion & Access” identified by the community
- **Asset Targets:**
Achieve 70-80% of washrooms in good condition or better
- **Connectivity:**
A washroom facility near every destination playground, sports field, water recreation access point and community gardens, and at intervals along the **Primary Network**



POLICY AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS



- *Serving-up a Fresh Concession Strategy* (2015-11-02 Motion)
- *Accessible Parks Strategy - Site Maps* (2015-12-14 Motion)
- *Increased Accessibility to Public Washrooms* (2016-11-28 Motion)
- *2017 Capital Budget Request for Washroom Renewals* (2016-12-06 Motion)
- *Review of Real Estate & Facilities Management Provision of Services to Vancouver Park Board* (2017-10-02 Motion)
- *Equipping Park Board Washrooms with Universally Accessible Changing Stations* (2018-10-01 Motion)
- *Oppenheimer Park Warming Shelter & Support Services* (2019-03-11 Motion)
- *Free Menstrual Products in Park Board Facilities* (2020-01-20 Motion)

BACKGROUND

May 18, 2018 - Board Briefing Memo
Park Washroom Renewal and Future Plans
(Introduction to Washroom Strategy)



December 19, 2019 - Board Briefing Memo
Washroom Strategy Update



**November 2, 2020 - Report
To Board for Decision**

WHAT WE HAVE



WHAT WE HAVE | WASHROOMS IN VANCOUVER

EXISTING PUBLIC WASHROOMS IN CITY OF VANCOUVER

- 95** ● Washrooms in Parks
- 67** ● Washrooms in Public Facilities
- 11** ● Automated Public Toilets



WHAT WE HAVE | KEY FINDINGS



- **Lack of Accessibility:** Many facilities do not meet minimum standards of accessibility
- **Lack of Inclusivity:** Many washrooms remain separated by gender
- **End of Service Life:** Majority of facilities built from 1960-1970 and nearing end of life
- **Sustainability:** Many washrooms with high potable water use
- **Increased Social Pressures:** Washrooms impacted by homelessness, drug use, cultural differences, and tourism



Strathcona Park



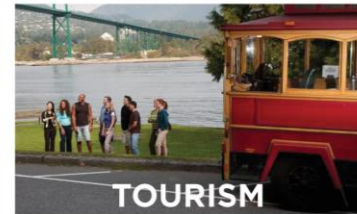
Jericho Beach Park



Second Beach



Second Beach

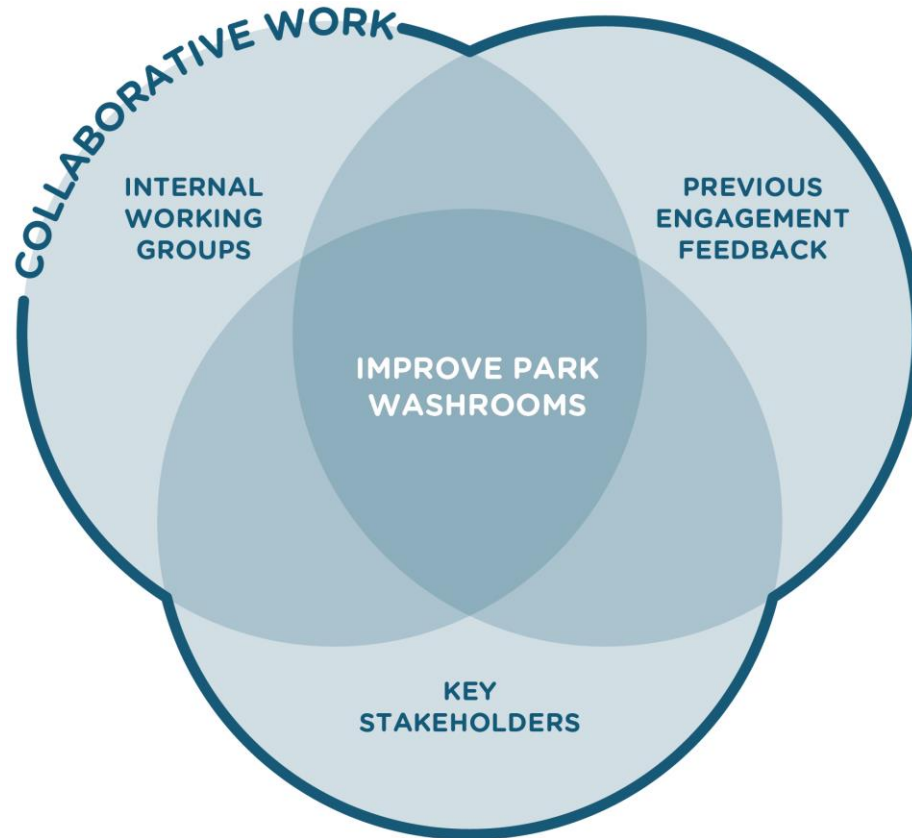


Stanley Park

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | INTERNAL WORKING GROUPS

Park Board

- Commercial Operations
- Park Operations
- Park Development
- Access and Inclusion
- Planning, Policy, and Environment
- Recreation
- New Building Services (Janitorial)
- Fieldhouse Operations

City of Vancouver

- Engineering (Public Space and Street Use Division)
- REFM (Facilities Planning)
- Social Policy
- Strategic Initiatives
- City Protective Services

BEACH
EXPERIENCE
TEAM

MAYOR'S OVERDOSE
EMERGENCY TASK
FORCE

UNIVERSAL &
INCLUSIVE DESIGN
FEASIBILITY STUDY

PARKS WASHROOM
STRATEGY

TEAM UP!

FIELDHOUSE
ACTIVATION
PROGRAM

CONCESSION
STRATEGY

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | KEY STAKEHOLDERS



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | PREVIOUS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

VanPlay Phase 1 17,150 Participants

What We Heard:

- What are challenges?
 - Access to drinking water and public washrooms
- Are there any challenges or barriers that prevent you from enjoying Vancouver's parks and recreation?
 - Access to Public washrooms and water (Other 16%)
- In your opinion, what could we do to improve the quality of Vancouver's parks and recreation?
 - More Washrooms, Cleaner Washrooms (Other 22%)



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | PREVIOUS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK PARKS CONCEPT DESIGN

- Park should have clean, safe, accessible washrooms
- Provide safe washrooms, showers, and change rooms
- Park design should welcome users of all abilities and ages

VANSPLASH: VANCOUVER'S AQUATICS STRATEGY

- Primary recommendations to improve beach-going experiences, 23% said other
- 5% better maintenance of washroom facilities

JOHN HENDRY PARK MASTER PLAN

Support for Master Plan Draft Recommendations:

- 78% Rebuild the South Beach Washroom Building
- 75% Support for Expand Washrooms Near Northeast Side of the Park for Public Use

TRACK & FIELD STRATEGY

- 51% of respondents prioritized the adding or upgrading of washrooms at track and field training facilities

ON WATER: VANCOUVER'S NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT STRATEGY

- 6% of respondents expressed that a lack of amenities such as washrooms was a barrier to their participation in non-motorized sports
- 11% of respondents indicated that access to Vancouver's waterways could be improved by upgrading existing facilities including washrooms
- 2% of respondents specified washrooms as a priority to improve non-motorized boating services

PEOPLE, PARKS & DOGS STRATEGY

- Stakeholders indicated that they would like washroom facilities (permanent or well-serviced porta-potties) near dog off-leash areas

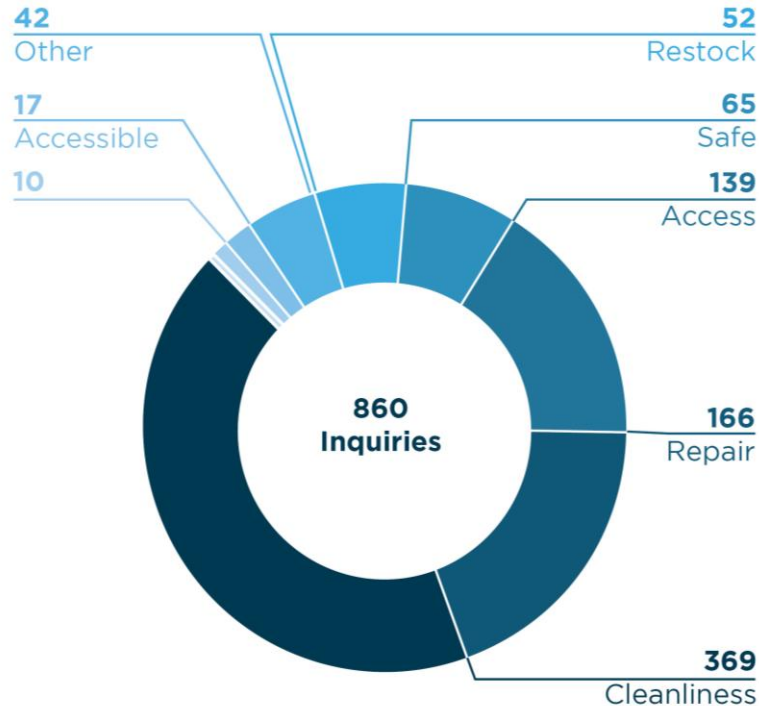
WEST END WATERFRONT MASTERPLAN

- 3% of respondents identified washrooms as an area of interest
- Majority identified a need for improvements

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | UNSOLICITED FEEDBACK



311 Inquiries from October 2016 – June 2018:



WHAT WE LEARNED



WHAT WE LEARNED | SUMMARY

- **Accessibility:** Roughly 40% of park washrooms do not meet CSA (Canadian Standards Association) criteria for an accessible entrance
- **Inclusivity:** It was determined that single-user washrooms are the most effective approach
- **Social Impacts:** Well-designed and maintained single-user park washroom buildings are often the only option for many people at risk or facing discrimination
- **COVID-19 Learnings:** Parks with washrooms enabled hand washing protocol, among the few public places to provide this essential service



WHAT WE PROPOSE

SHORT AND LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT WE PROPOSE | *SHORT TERM* RECOMMENDATIONS



1. ACCESSIBILITY (SHORT TERM)

- 1.1 Advance the work of Park Board Accessibility Task Force to **arrange for simple upgrade work**, aiming to replace with an accessible product when repairing damaged fixtures.
- 1.2 **Identify park washrooms with major accessibility issues** based on the findings of the Park Board Accessibility Task Force to feed in priority list for renewals.
- 1.3 Follow CSA (Canadian Standards Association) B651 – Accessible Design For The Built Environment standards to **assess need for accessibility improvements**.
- 1.4 **Update VanMaps** with accurate and detailed information and ensure other online mapping tools have up to date location information.

ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASE
STAFF

EQUITABLE
ACTIONS

STAND-ALONE
WASHROOMS

COMM.
STRATEGY

WHAT WE PROPOSE | *SHORT TERM* RECOMMENDATIONS



2. INCREASE STAFF

- 2.1 **Increase staff on mobile washroom crews** that respond to seasonality and use patterns.
- 2.2 **Increase attendants at busy facilities**, where their presence increases safety and cleanliness.
- 2.3 **Investigate the use of remote locking and unlocking** with motion sensors and call button to allow staff to focus on other priorities.

ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASE
STAFF

EQUITABLE
ACTIONS

STAND-ALONE
WASHROOMS

COMM.
STRATEGY

WHAT WE PROPOSE | *SHORT TERM* RECOMMENDATIONS



3. EQUITABLE ACTIONS

3.1 **Provide cost free menstrual products** in park washrooms

3.2 **Work with community members** with lived experience to create stewardship models for safety and openness.

3.3 **Focus on service and not identity** of the users.

ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASE
STAFF

EQUITABLE
ACTIONS

STAND-ALONE
WASHROOMS

COMM.
STRATEGY

WHAT WE PROPOSE | *SHORT TERM* RECOMMENDATIONS



4. STAND-ALONE WASHROOMS

- 4.1 **Investigate and pilot the feasibility of a stand-alone washroom** (e.g. Portland Loo or alternative) in a suitable location as a potential long-term model.
- 4.2 **Consider washroom trailers** that provide more durable, clean, and accessible solutions for high volume areas with construction restrictions.
- 4.3 **Allocate funding to temporary portable washroom program** for seasonal high-use parks while piloting other options to phase out temporary portable washroom program.

ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASE
STAFF

EQUITABLE
ACTIONS

STAND-ALONE
WASHROOMS

COMM.
STRATEGY

WHAT WE PROPOSE | *SHORT TERM* RECOMMENDATIONS



5. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

5.1 **Increase signage** to provide hours of opening information, direct the public to nearby washrooms at libraries and community centres, provide harm reduction information and develop signage for destination locations with high traffic and tourism.

5.2 **Inform park users of upcoming washroom construction** when washrooms are not functional.

5.3 **Communicate to the public the ways in which their input is being incorporated** into providing safer, cleaner, and more accessible washrooms for all.

ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASE
STAFF

EQUITABLE
ACTIONS

STAND-ALONE
WASHROOMS

COMM.
STRATEGY

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



1. ACCESSIBILITY (LONG TERM)

1.1 **Adopt a new standard** based on CSA B651 and reference the City of Vancouver's Public Washroom Design and Technical Guidelines for all renewals and new builds.

1.2 **Provide an adult change table at each destination park washroom** and where identified as needed;

1.3 **Provide a child changing station**, except where adult changing stations can be used for both purposes.

ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING
RENEWAL

INCLUSIVE
WASHROOMS

PRIORITY
LIST

LOOKING
AHEAD

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



2. BUILDING RENEWAL

- 2.1 **Implement findings on fixtures** from Mayor's Overdose Emergency Task Force Washroom Strategy.
- 2.2 **Provide a standardized approach to new washroom building design** (as outlined in Section 6.3 in Appendix A), which reflects the five VanPlay park classifications, including guidelines for size to suit location.
- 2.3 **Standardize approach to fixtures, signage, way-finding, and colour palette** for consistency in accessibility, safety, durability, and appearance while allowing for individual treatments.
- 2.4 **Implement energy and potable water improvements** in the renovation of existing washrooms. In particular, when replacing fixtures specify ultra low-flow for toilet, sink faucets, and urinals (or waterless).

ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING
RENEWAL

INCLUSIVE
WASHROOMS

PRIORITY
LIST

LOOKING
AHEAD

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



3. INCLUSIVE WASHROOMS

- 3.1 **Design all washroom facilities to provide stall options for inclusivity** of people with disabilities, families and caregivers, and trans and gender diverse people.
- 3.2 Balance safety and privacy through exploration of **semi-open or louvered designs**.
- 3.3 Develop communication material to **outline policies about access for all**.

ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING
RENEWAL

INCLUSIVE
WASHROOMS

PRIORITY
LIST

LOOKING
AHEAD

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



4. PRIORITY LIST

4.1 Continue to **use a prioritization method** (i.e. Scoring Criteria) for renewal and build of new washrooms.

4.2 **Revisit the priority list annually** to ensure information is current.

4.3 **Incorporate the findings of the internal Accessibility Task Force** annually and offer input.

ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING
RENEWAL

INCLUSIVE
WASHROOMS

PRIORITY
LIST

LOOKING
AHEAD

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LONG TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



5. LOOKING AHEAD

5.1 Review City of Vancouver Public Washroom Design and Technical Guidelines annually and **improve collaboration with City departments** to build a larger network of public washrooms.

5.2 **Review tour bus impacts on destination park washrooms** including engagement with business operators.

5.3 **Propose construction of approximately 6 new washrooms and 10 renewals per capital plan**, and increase operating and upgrade budget to maintain washrooms.

ACCESSIBILITY

BUILDING
RENEWAL

INCLUSIVE
WASHROOMS

PRIORITY
LIST

LOOKING
AHEAD

WHAT WE PROPOSE | PARK CLASSIFICATIONS



Urban Plaza: Small in size with limited landscape cover and select amenities



Local: Small in size with select amenities, mostly passive (four or less)



Neighbourhood: Medium in size with some amenities (three to seven)



Community: Medium to large in size with many amenities (seven or more)



Destination: Large in size with many amenities including event hosting

WHAT WE PROPOSE | STAND-ALONE WASHROOM TYPES

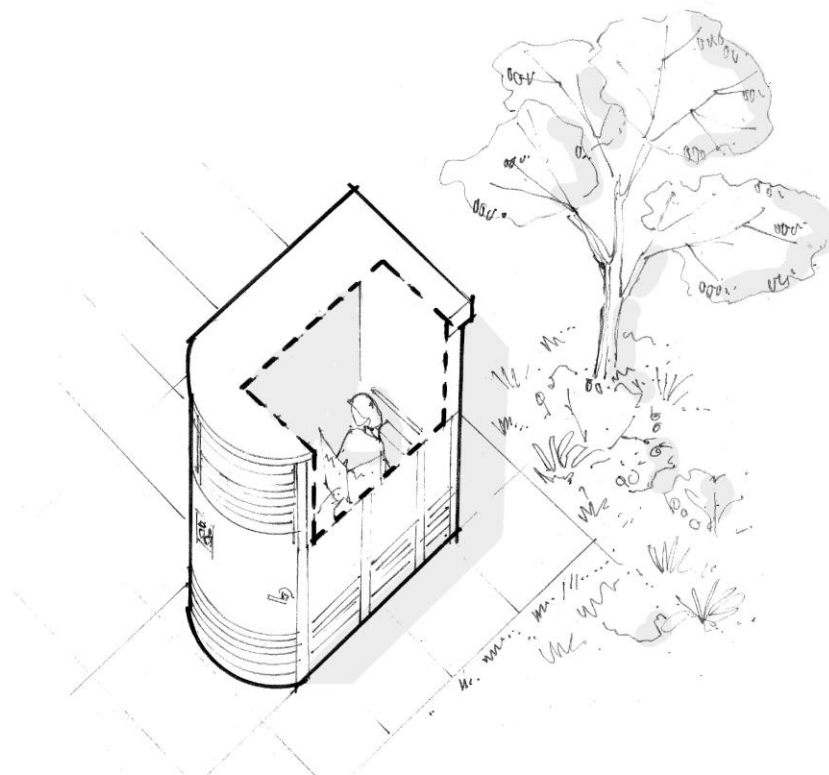
1A STAND-ALONE STANDARD



VanPlay Park Classifications:

Scale: All Park
Classifications

Potentially sited at
socially sensitive
sites, golf courses,
beaches



EXAMPLE DESIGNS - LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION 2.2

WHAT WE PROPOSE | SMALL WASHROOM TYPES

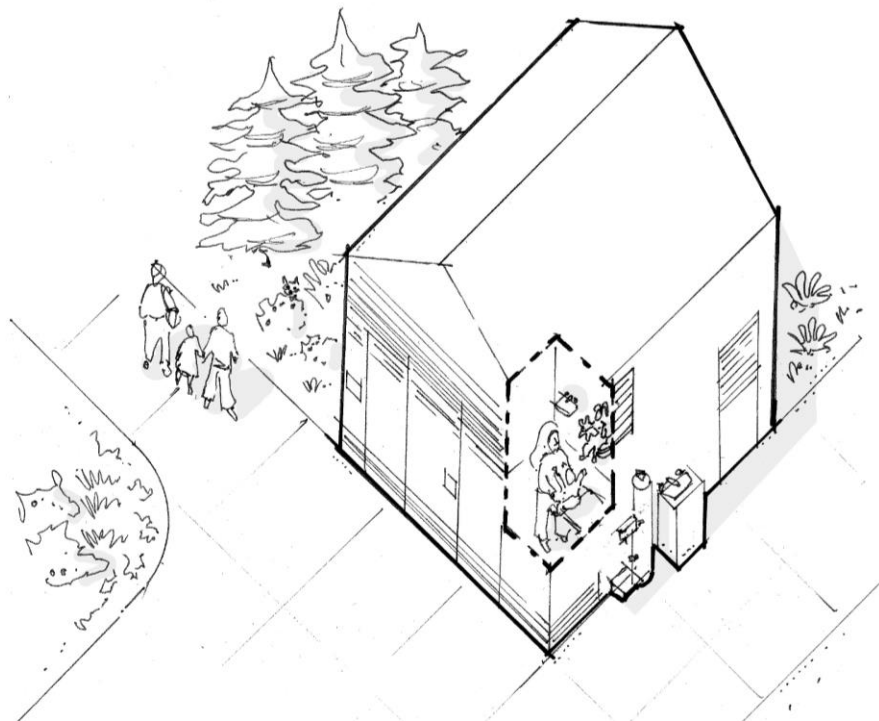
2A SMALL STANDARD



VanPlay Park Classifications:

Scale: Local,
Neighbourhood

Potentially sited in
Tisdall Park.



EXAMPLE DESIGNS - LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION 2.2

WHAT WE PROPOSE | MEDIUM WASHROOM TYPES

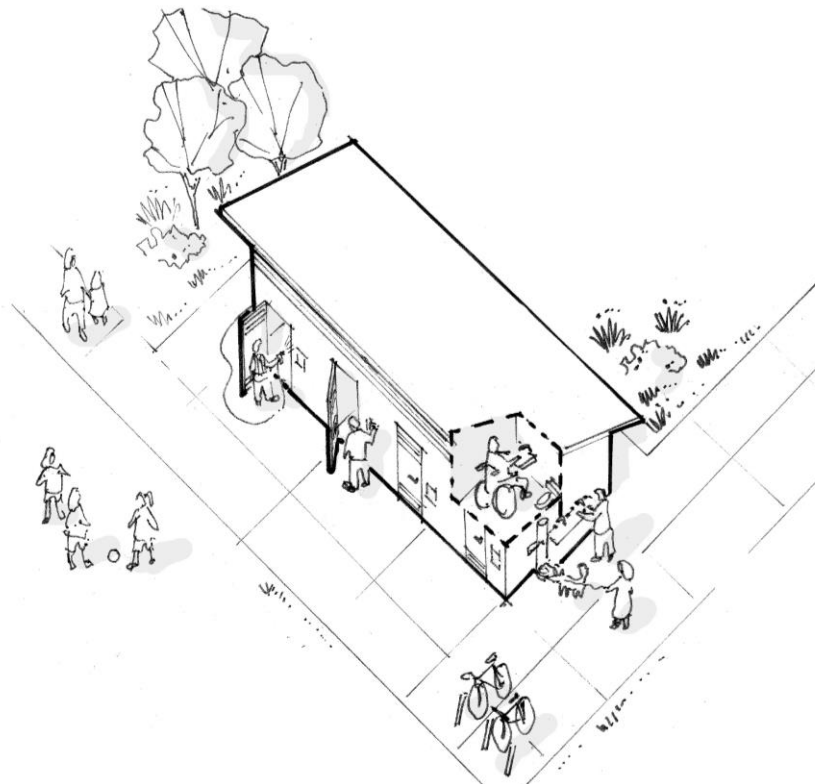
3A MEDIUM STANDARD



VanPlay Park Classifications:

Scale: Neighbourhood,
Community

Potentially sited in
Jonathan Rogers
Park, Spanish
Banks Picnic Area,
Charleson Park



EXAMPLE DESIGNS - LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION 2.2

WHAT WE PROPOSE | LARGE WASHROOM TYPES

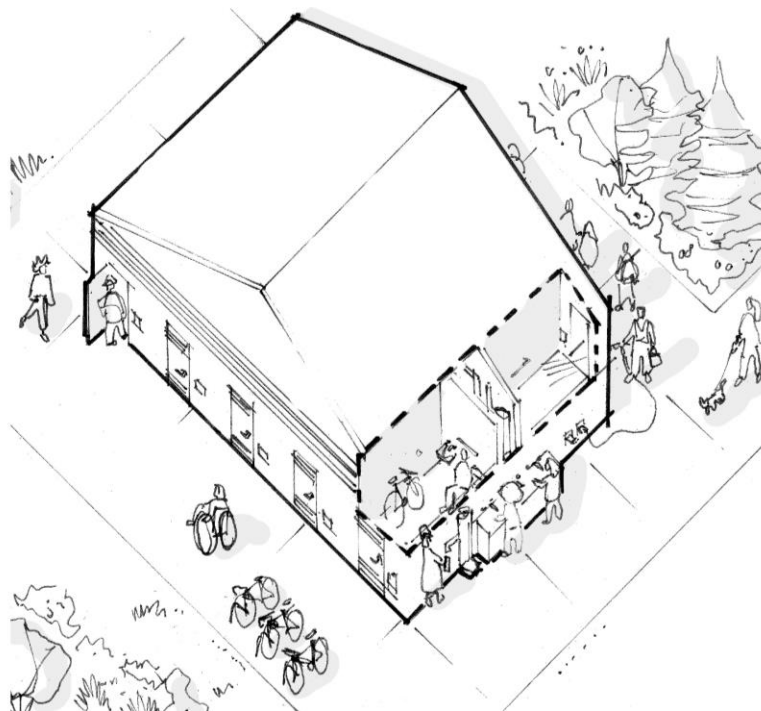
4A LARGE STANDARD



VanPlay Park Classifications:

Scale: Community,
Destination

Potentially sited at
large and highly used
sports field or park
sites



EXAMPLE DESIGNS - LONG TERM RECOMMENDATION 2.2

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS / CONCLUSION



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | PRIORITY LISTS

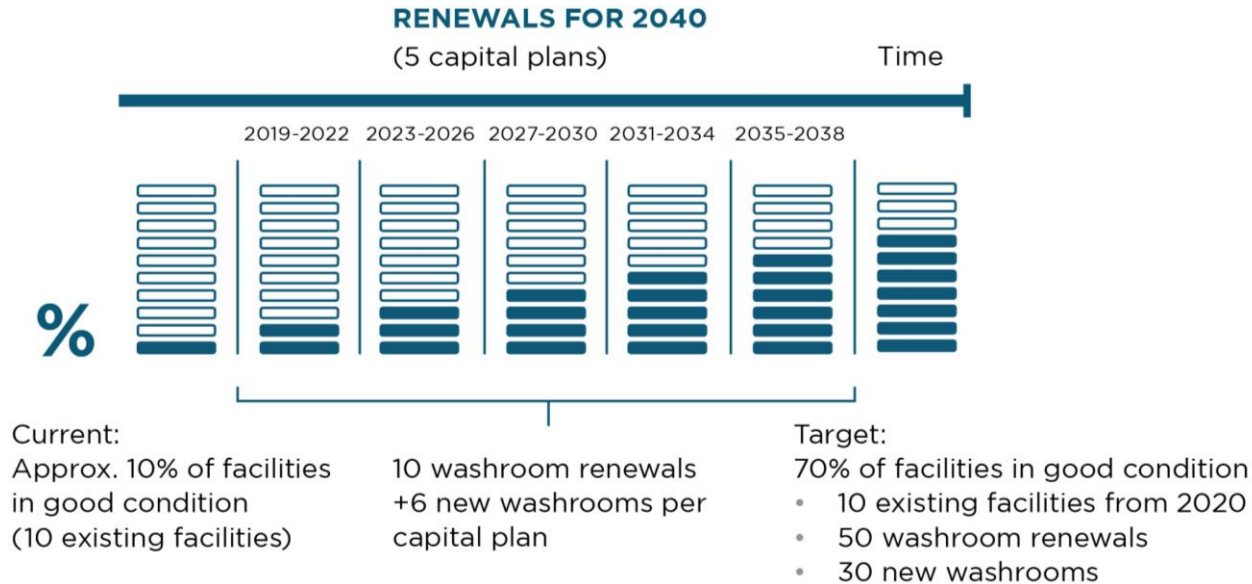


Current 4-Year Capital Plan funding:

- **New Washroom & Fieldhouses** (\$8.7M). Pending final construction cost estimates, work under this category is anticipated to include:
 - Riverfront East Park
 - Crab Park
 - Coopers' Park
 - Columbia Park
 - Tisdale Park
 - Van Tech
- **Renewal & Upgrades of Washrooms, Fieldhouses & Concessions** (\$8.3M). Pending final construction cost estimates, work under this category is anticipated to include:
 - Second Beach
 - Collingwood Park
 - Locarno Beach Park
 - Spanish Banks West
 - System wide accessibility

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | SERVICE PLANNING AND DELIVERY

- Recommendation 5.3 proposes 10 renewals per capital plan along with 6 new washroom builds to meet VanPlay criteria for 'good condition' (safe, clean, and accessible)



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | OPERATIONS



- The Park Board operating budget provides roughly \$25,000 per washroom per year for janitorial staff (~\$63 per day per washroom)
- This funding level makes it challenging to provide adequate servicing and will need to be further considered as new facilities come on stream and as our desire to improve service levels increases

CONCLUSION



Hastings Park

RECOMMENDATION



THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the “Parks Washroom Strategy”, attached as Appendix A and as outlined in this report, which includes short and long-term recommendations to guide the planning, building, and operations of safe, clean and accessible park washrooms in Vancouver.

