

DAYLIGHTING CANYON CREEK AT SPANISH BANKS

Report Back

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, November 23, 2020



Salish Creek (Near Canyon Creek)

- To provide the Board with a response to its March 9, 2020 motion on the feasibility of this daylighting Canyon Creek, and how it fits with the implementation of VanPlay goals and other policies; and
- To seek the Board's endorsement of the proposed plan of action.

Policy Alignment

Location Context

Nearby Reference Projects

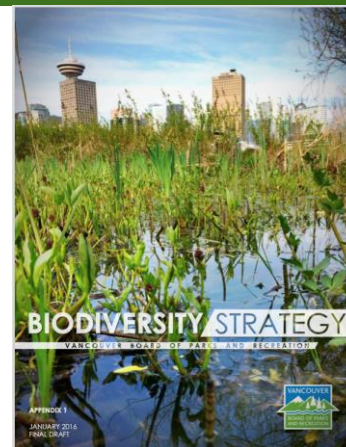
Local Considerations

First Nations Engagement

Potential Project Benefits

Recommendation

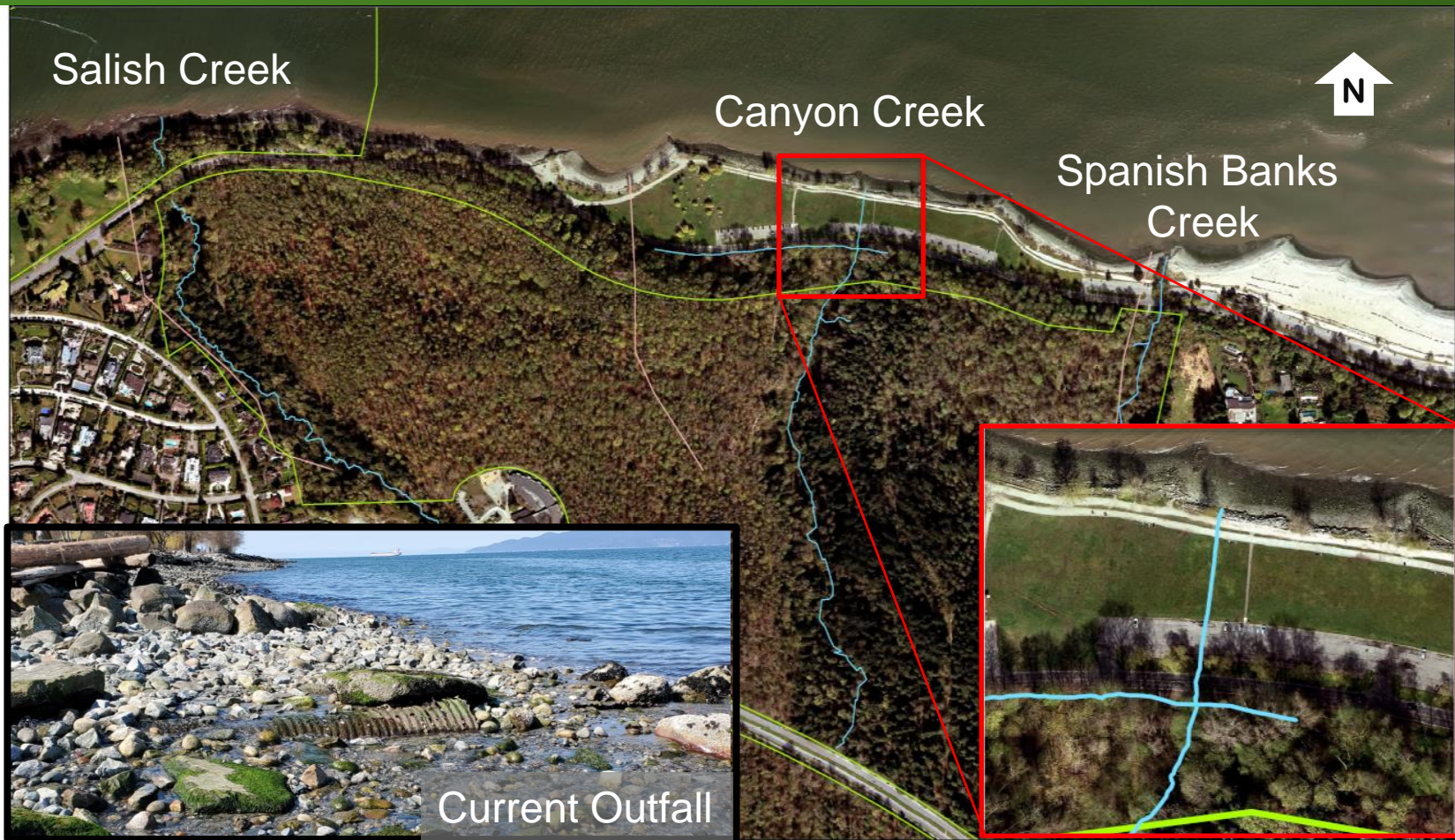
Policy Alignment



SPANISH BANKS PARK LEASE
LEASE NO. 15 DATED JANUARY 14, 1930



Land-Based Portion of Lease Area



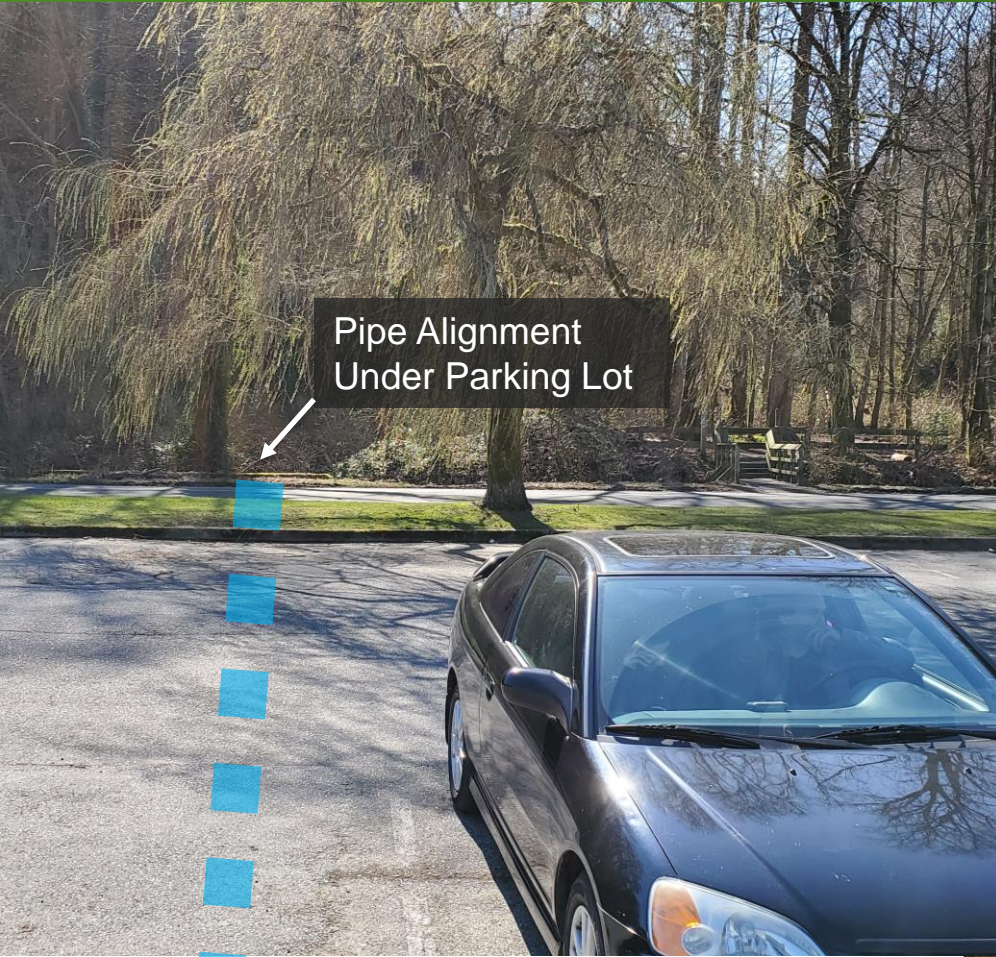
Nearby Reference Projects



Spanish Banks Creek



Local Considerations



OLA Entrance Sign

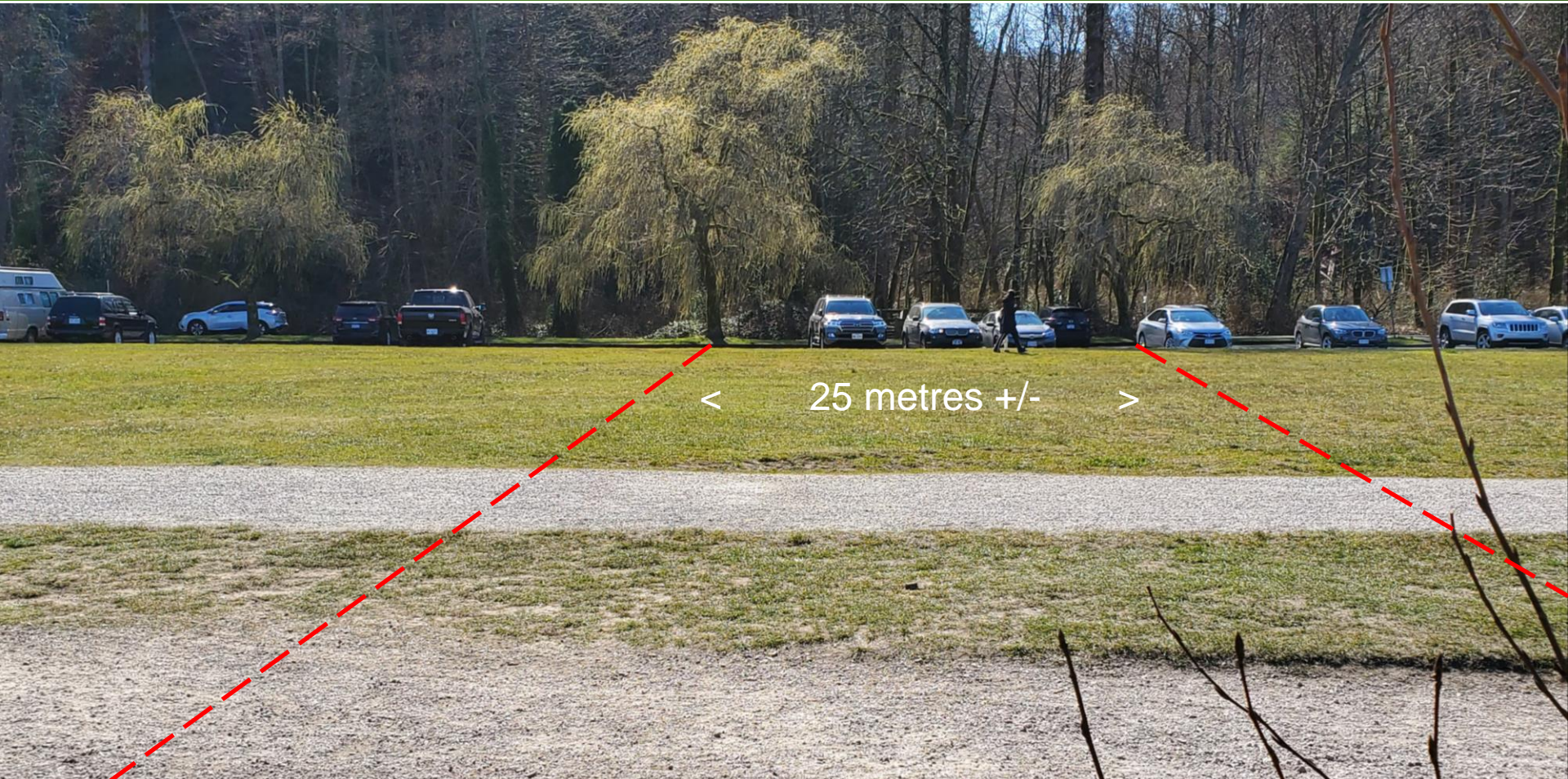
Local Considerations



Local Considerations



Local Considerations



Stream of Life



The shoreline of False Creek, at the mouth of Moxie Creek, 1902.

Once, the Burrard Peninsula was home to many streams where trout and salmon swam. But as the region grew, creeks were filled in or diverted through underground pipes. Today, only a few creeks and streams remain. This creek is one of the last that is capable of supporting salmon and trout.

The first phase of the revitalization of this creek was made possible thanks to the support of UBC alumnus Colin D. Watson and Barbara Watson, who donated in memory of their son Kevin Watson, a treasured son, husband, father and brother.

Kevin Watson, also a UBC alumnus, was an avid outdoorsman who cared passionately about the environment. In honour of Kevin's lifelong interest in marine sustainability, the Watson family is pleased to have helped make this creek once again possible for salmon, restoring the natural ecosystem La vie est.

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Before restoration: March 2016



After restoration: May 2018

Work has been done to improve habitat for salmon and trout, including:

- parts of the stream were deepened to provide pools for fish to rest & overwinter
- boulders & large woody debris were added to improve the stream characteristics
- gravel was added to provide a better substrate for spawning and to reduce siltation
- slopes were stabilized using bioengineering (anchoring soil with deep-rooted plants & wattle fencing)
- invasive plants were removed and native species planted, both to stabilize soil and to provide a food source for native insects (and, in turn, food for fish)

Many thanks to our important partners in this project:

- University of British Columbia
- Musqueam First Nation
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Pacific Spirit Park Society
- Spanish Bank Streamkeepers
- Wreck Beach Preservation Society



(far left) juvenile salmon, (centre) salmonberry blossom, (left) damselfly on salmonberry leaf.

- The stream would be well suited to support salmonids such as coho and chum salmon.
- Riparian forest and vegetated backshore will contribute to the biological diversity of the area, creating valuable habitat for other species such as river otter, mink, eagles and herons.
- The stream would accentuate the link between Spanish Banks Beach and Pacific Spirit Park, a protected upstream source.
- Restoration and enhancement projects in high profile locations have very high educational value; signage can be introduced to increase awareness of the importance of restoration projects like this to ecological health.
- Possible partnerships, in-kind assistance and ongoing stewardship activities can increase the societal value of the project.
- Opportunity to improve safety of park users by realignment of the bike path in the OLA.

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with planning and scoping work for the daylighting of Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks Beach Park, for consideration of project implementation funding in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, with the scoping work to include:

- a. conducting public and Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh engagement;
- b. preparing preliminary concept plans; and
- c. preparing preliminary implementation costing.

