

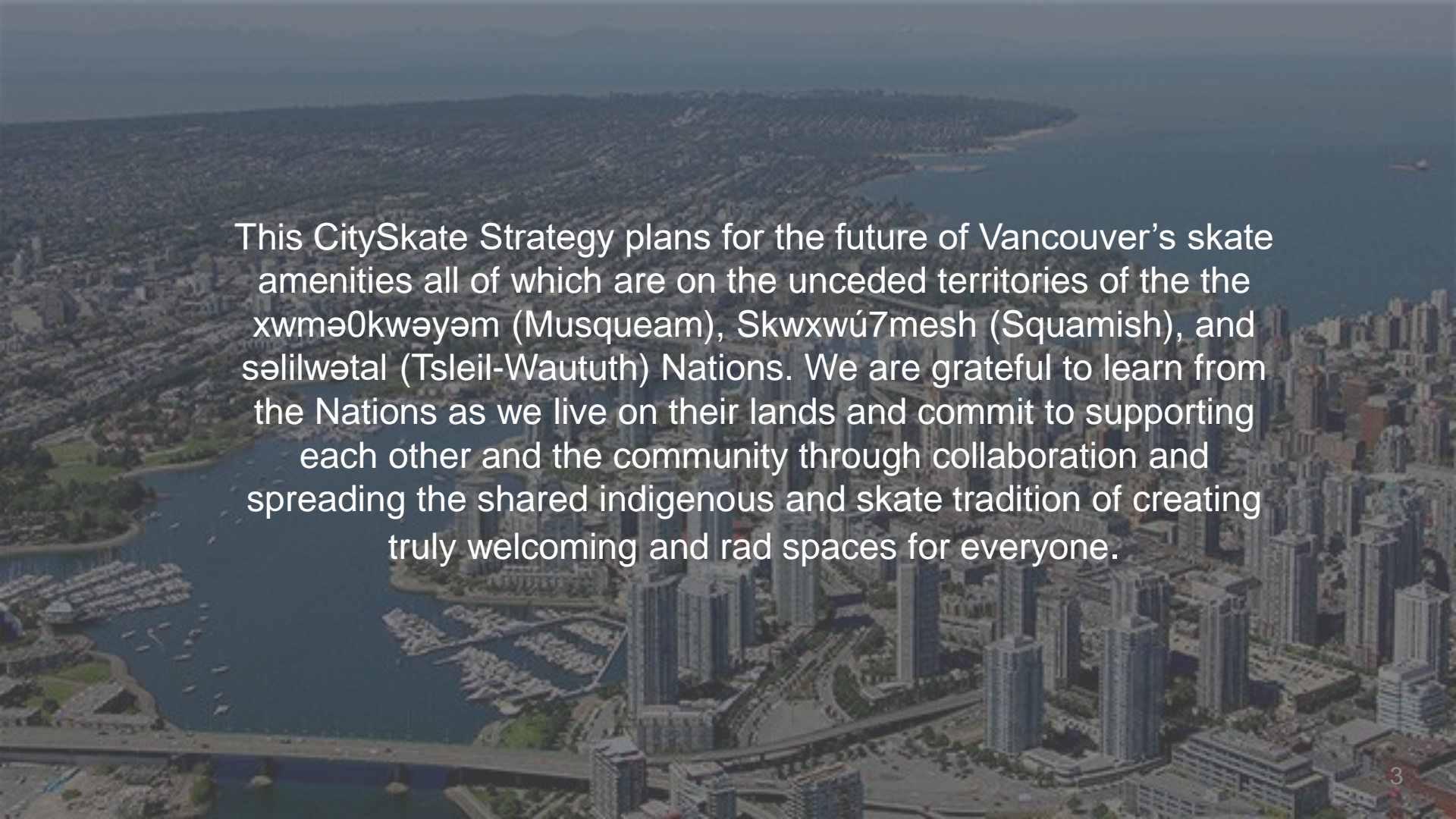


# SKATEBOARD AMENITIES STRATEGY (CitySkate)

Park Board Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 6, 2022



- The purpose of the presentation is to:
  - To provide an overview and seek decision on the Skateboard Amenities Strategy (“Cityskate”)
  - To seek a decision on the recommended “Quick Wins” implementation items to start this year

An aerial photograph of Vancouver, British Columbia, showing the city's dense urban landscape, the waterfront, and the surrounding hills. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

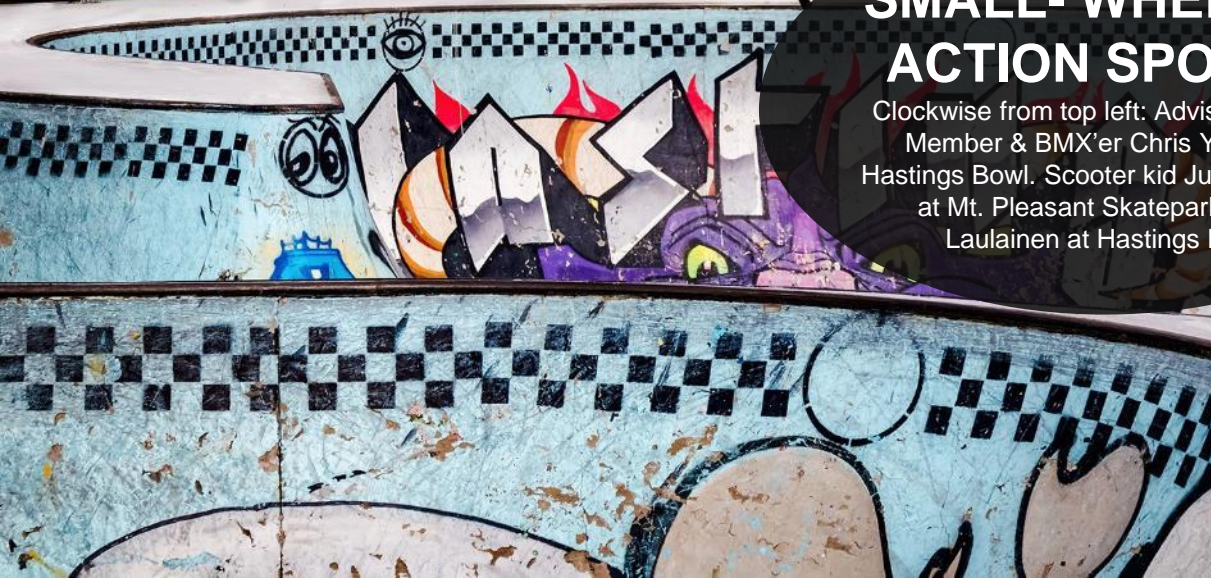
This CitySkate Strategy plans for the future of Vancouver's skate amenities all of which are on the unceded territories of the the xwmə0kwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətal (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are grateful to learn from the Nations as we live on their lands and commit to supporting each other and the community through collaboration and spreading the shared indigenous and skate tradition of creating truly welcoming and rad spaces for everyone.





## SMALL- WHEELED ACTION SPORTS

Clockwise from top left: Advisory Group Member & BMX'er Chris Young at Hastings Bowl. Scooter kid Julius Penske at Mt. Pleasant Skatepark; Mika Laulainen at Hastings Bowl



# Outline of Presentation

1

## INTRODUCTION

- Purpose
- History
- Benefits
- Trends
- Precedents

2

## INVENTORY

- Existing Parks
- Typologies
- Dots and Spots
- Rain-Sheltered
- Transportation
- Skate Community

3

## ENGAGEMENT

- Phases
- Tactics
- Stakeholders
- Staff
- Youth
- Panel

4

## AMENITY PLANNING

- Principles
- Vision & Mission
- Goals
- Mapping
- Prioritizing Areas
- Demand

5

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implementation Areas
- Key Actions
- Implementation Timeline
- Next Steps
- Conclusion





# Introduction



# Why do a Skateboard Strategy?



# Why do a Skateboard Strategy?

- To **support** the community & the **growing demand** for small-wheeled sport amenities
- To **identify priorities** to enhance inventory of amenities
- To formalize the acceptance of skateboarding and small-wheeled sports as **legitimate recreation activities**

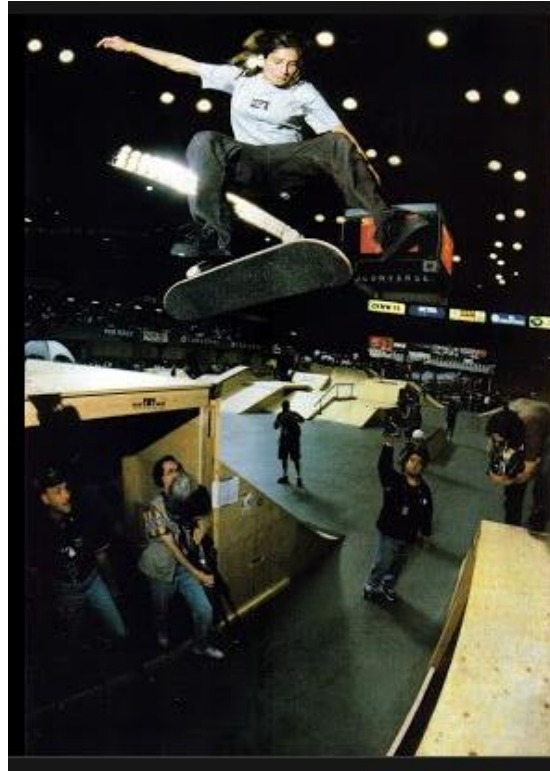




# Skateboarding in Vancouver



Carlos Long at the iconic China Creek Bowl (1987) - Photo Credit: Peter Duncannon



Slam City Jam, Pacific Coliseum



Downtown Skate Plaza



# The Benefits of Skateboarding

- Low Barrier
- Improves mental and physical health
- Builds self esteem, confidence and resiliency
- Community Building
- Attractive to youth



## AVERAGE AGE OF PARTICIPANT BY SPORT

Skateboarding	14.0
Soccer	17.2
Football	17.9
In-Line Skating	19.8
Baseball	20.0
Basketball	23.7
Softball	29.1
Tennis	30.5
Golf	39.0

Figure 5. Average Age of Participant by Sport (Source: City of Seattle)



# Lesser Known Facts of Skateboarding

- Skateboarding is actually quite safe
- Skateparks can decrease negative urban behaviour
- Skateparks aren't that loud
- Skating isn't just for boys, its for all genders

INJURIES PER 1,000 PARTICIPANTS	
Hockey	2.7
Football	2.2
Baseball	1.8
Basketball	1.6
Bicycling	1.1
Skateboarding	0.7

NOTES: Skateboarders skating less than one



*“Giving youth something to do and somewhere to go greatly reduces their chances of getting into trouble”*

Law Enforcement Survey





# Trends & Precedents of Skateboard Amenities



Skateable public art in Malmo, Sweden “Skate Malmo”



The “Courts” at Britannia – DIY Style



Rotterdam, Netherlands  
“Character Type”  
Modular Pieces



# Trends & Precedents of Skateboard Amenities



Wavewalk Pier Skatepark in Portland

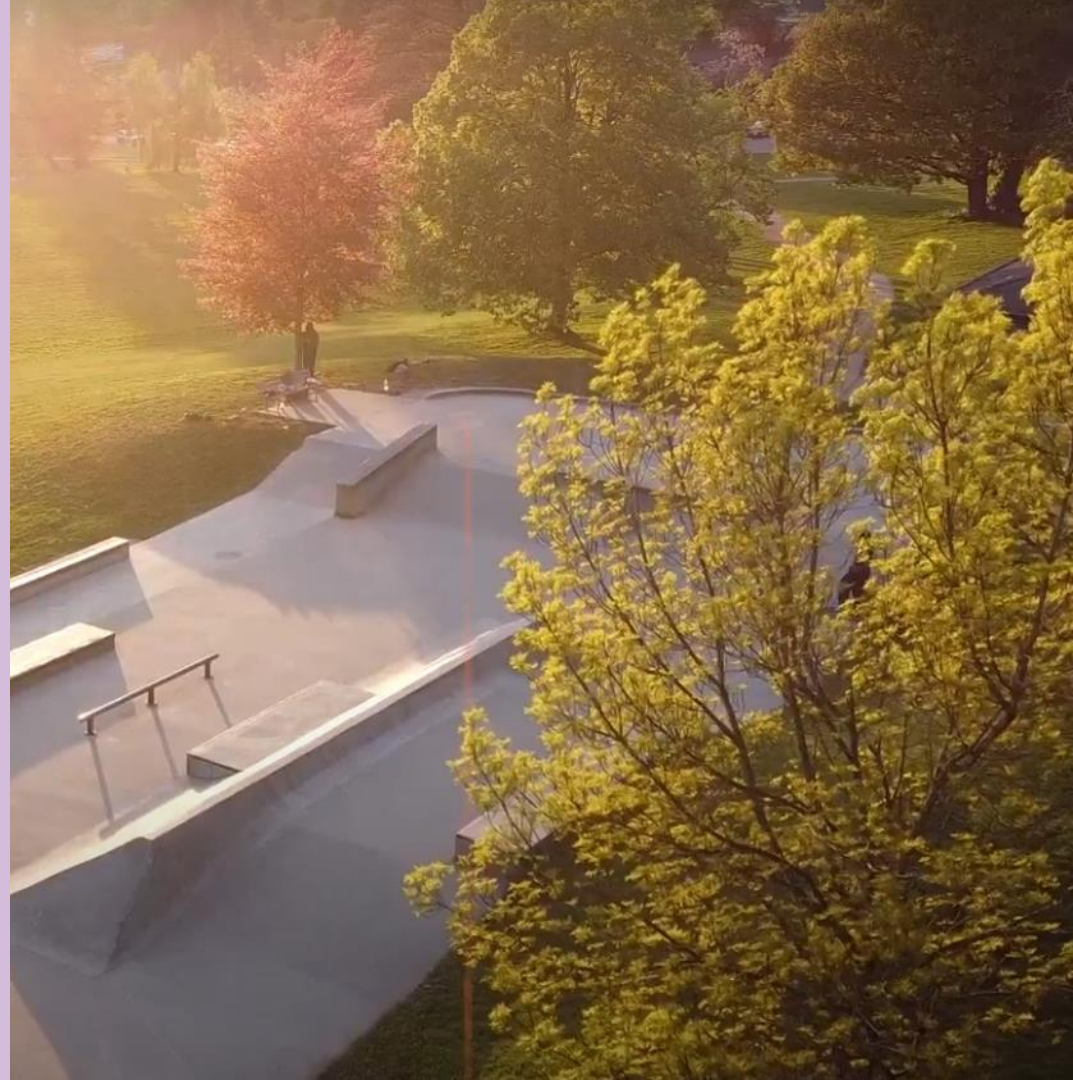


Israel's Pads in Copenhagen





# Inventory of Vancouver's Skate Infrastructure



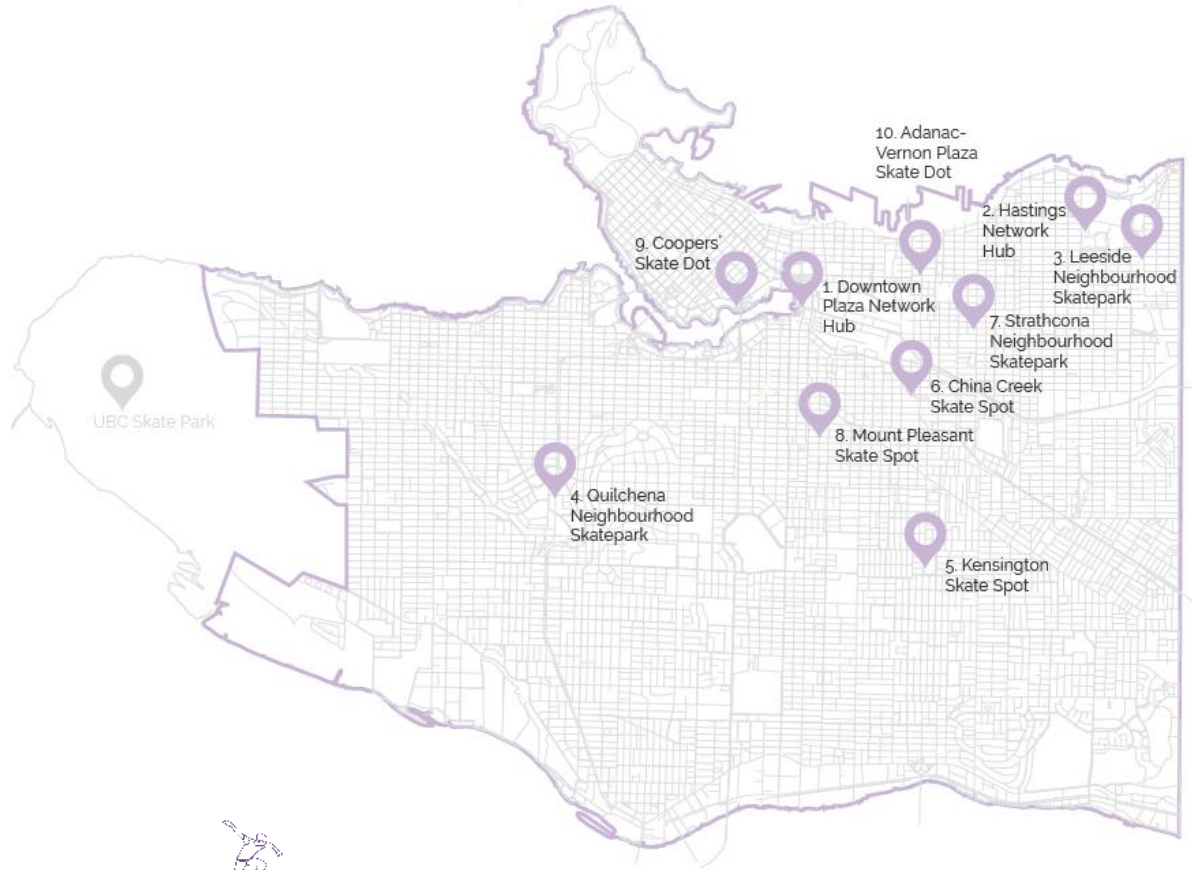


# Skate Amenity Typologies

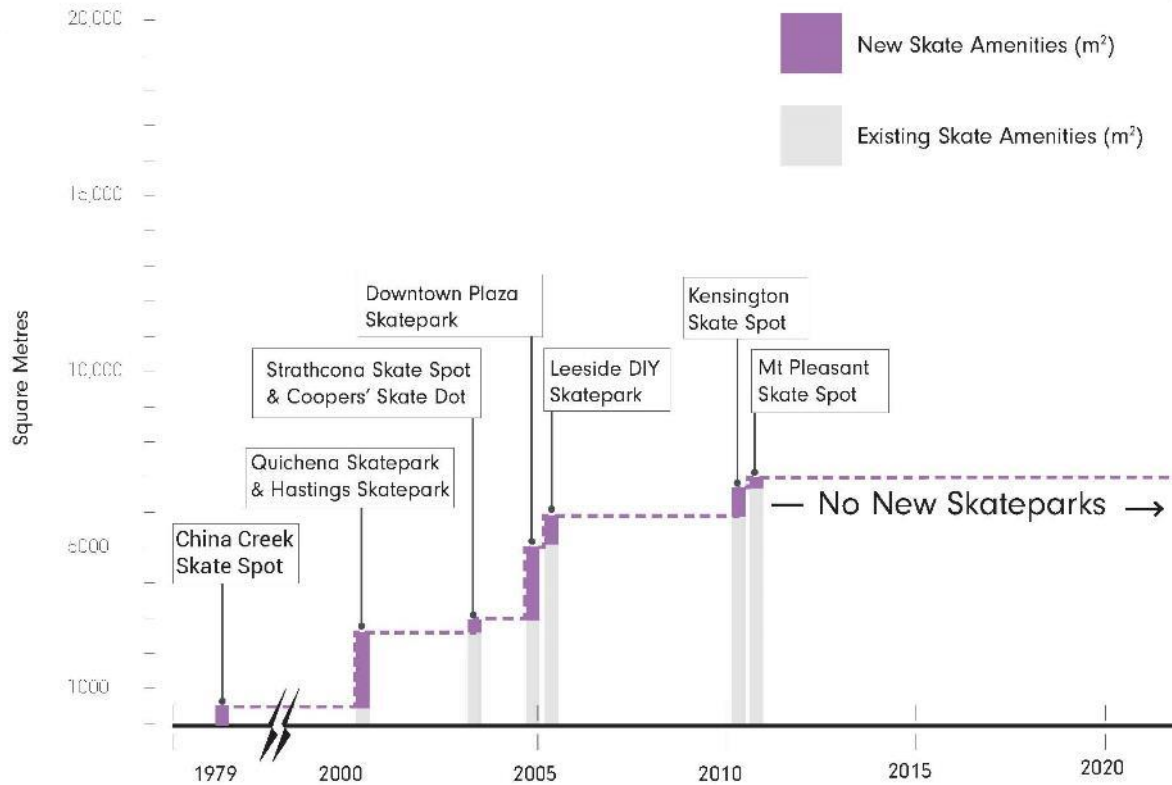
	CHARACTER	EXAMPLE	TYPICAL SIZE
DOT		 Coopers'	> 150m <sup>2</sup>
SPOT		 Mt. Pleasant	150m <sup>2</sup> - 600m <sup>2</sup>
NEIGHBOURHOOD		 Quilchena	600m <sup>2</sup> - 1,200m <sup>2</sup>
NETWORK HUB		 Downtown Plaza	1,200m <sup>2</sup> - 2,500m <sup>2</sup>



# Existing Skateparks



# Existing Skate Amenities

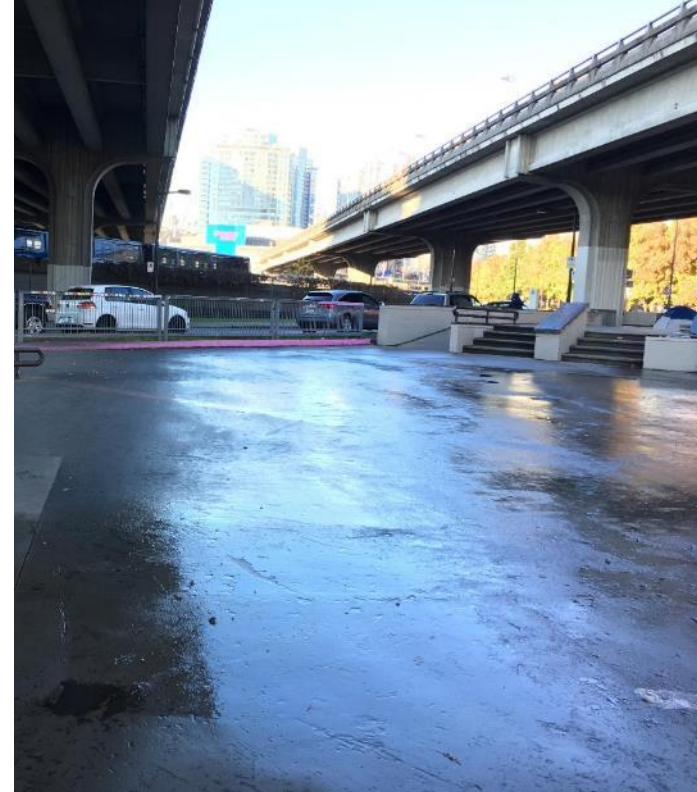




# Rain-Sheltered Skate Amenities



Leaside D.I.Y. Tunnel



Downtown Skate Plaza under the viaducts

# Skate Spaces Between Parks



Adanac/Vernon Skate Spot



The iconic "Commerce Place"





# Small-wheeled Sports as Transportation



Central Valley Greenway - Photocredit shboardz



West End Back Alleys





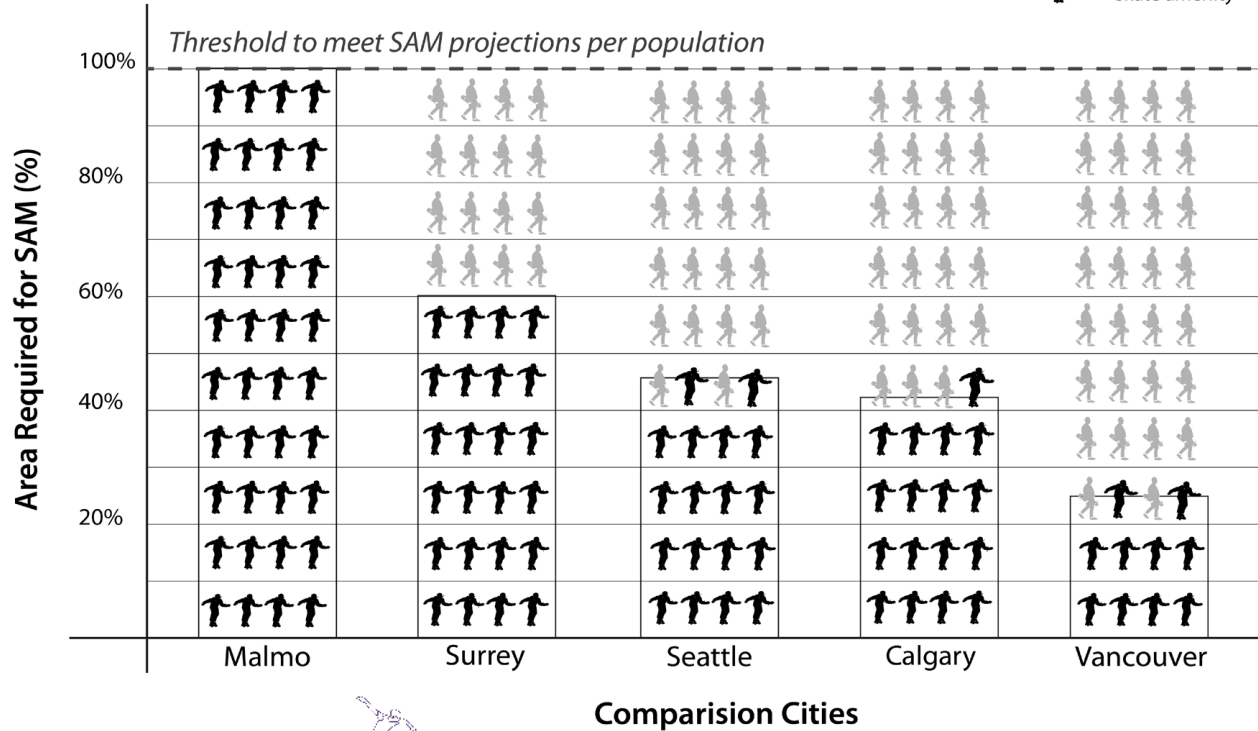


# The Vancouver Skate Community



## Skateboard Adoption Model (SAM) Area Requirements 5 Comparison Cities

-  = People without access to skate amenity
-  = People with access to skate amenity



# Public & Stakeholder Engagement





## PHASE 1

June 2021

General views and key needs



Two In-Person  
Open Houses

Five Pop-Up  
Skate Events



Two On-Line  
Surveys

About Here  
Video  
Documentary

## PHASE 2

October 2021

Gaps, opportunities & priorities



8 S.A.G.E.  
Stakeholder  
meetings  
8 SPOT  
meetings  
One Youth  
workshop



**Social Media**  
Tweets YouTube  
Instagram



## S.A.G.E = Skate Advisory Group for Engagement



S.A.G.E. meeting April 2022



Skate Canada Contest – All Aboard



Land Acknowledgment – All Aboard



## S.P.O.T = Skate Plan Oversight Team

- City of Vancouver Engineering Department's Street Activities and Active Transportation Divisions
- Planning Department
- Real Estate Facilities Management
- Community Planning
- Park Board Operations and Recreation.





# Open Houses and Pop up Events



Sunset Pop-Up - August 2021



Cambie Pop-Up/Open House – October 2021



“Skate for Change” - June 2021





# Youth Workshop – October 2021



# “About Here” Video Series - Vancouver CitySkate

By Utae Lee  
October 2021





# Skate Community Panels

## Sunset Beach CitySkate Panel August 2021



**From left to right:** Kristin Ebeling, Rose Archie, Norma Ibarra and Mickey Ray

## “Lessons from Malmo” March 2022



**Gustav Eden**, Pro-Skateboarder, and Planner City of Malmo, Sweden

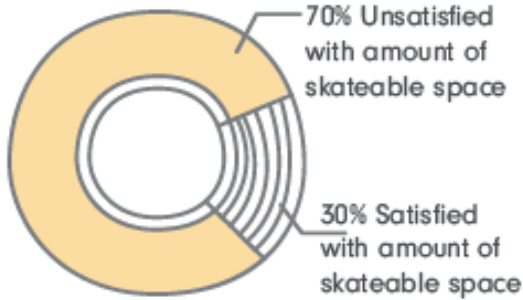


**Gustav Eden**, Pro-Skateboarder, and Planner City of Malmo, Sweden

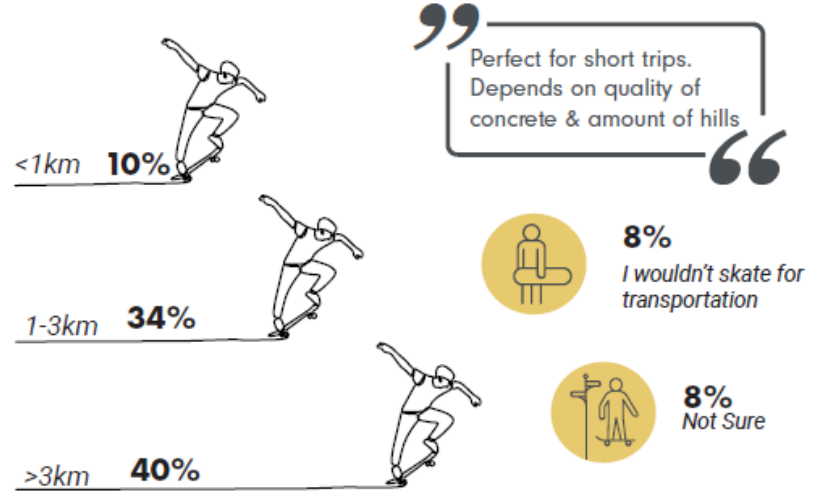
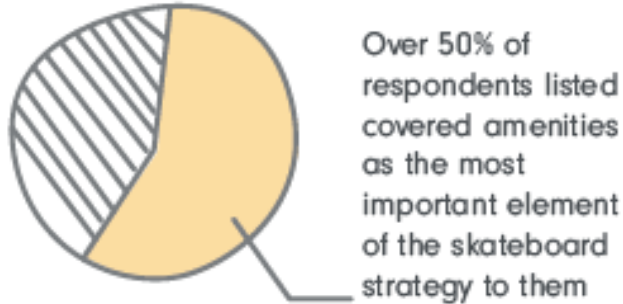
*“Skateboarders don’t want to be separated from the urban life, we want to be part of it.”*



# What We Heard



Phase 1= 2,146 online respondents

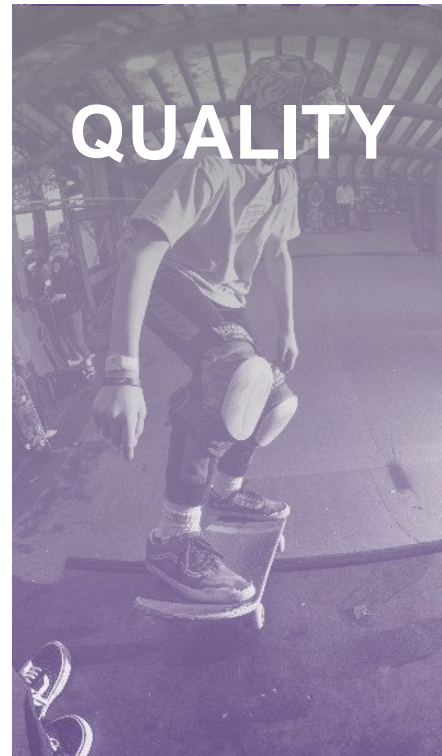


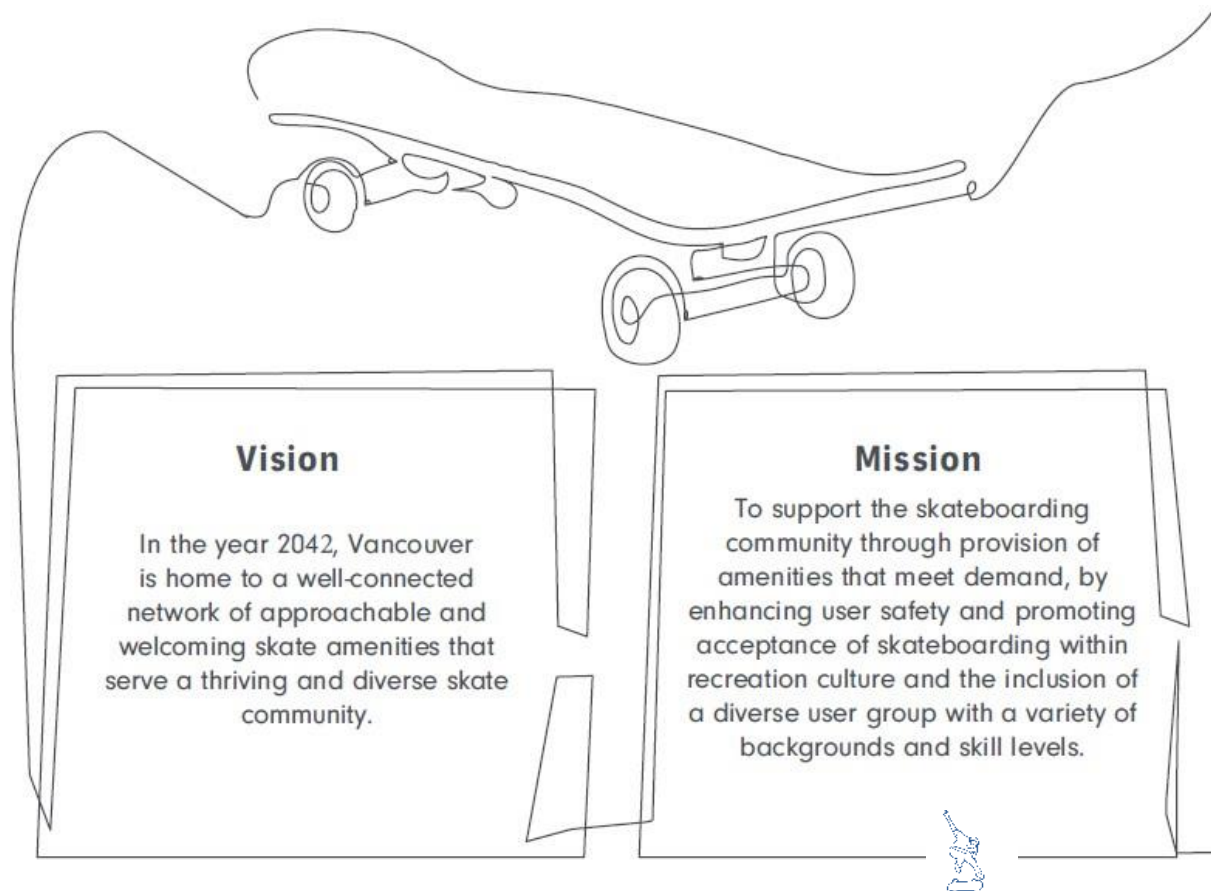
# Skate Amenity Planning





## *Skateboarding in Vancouver should be...*





# The Strategy Framework – Goals



## More Space

Increase the overall area of skateable surfaces to meet Vancouver's growing needs



## Year Round Use

Provide skate amenities that are dry when it rains



## Better Distribution

Distribute skate amenities around the city with convenient access to rapid transit



## Community Support

Support the skateboarding community through continued collaboration



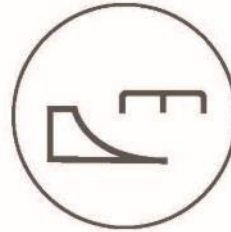
## Connected Network

Improve opportunities for skateboarding as a mode of active transportation



## Creative Integration

Integrate skate amenities in a way that balances user enjoyment and safety



## Terrain Variety

Develop customized and diverse terrain types across the city based on site specific opportunities

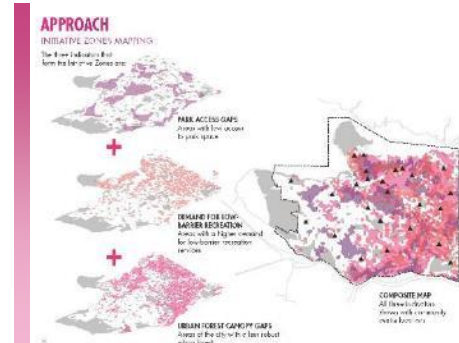






## THREE BOLD MOVES

### EQUITY

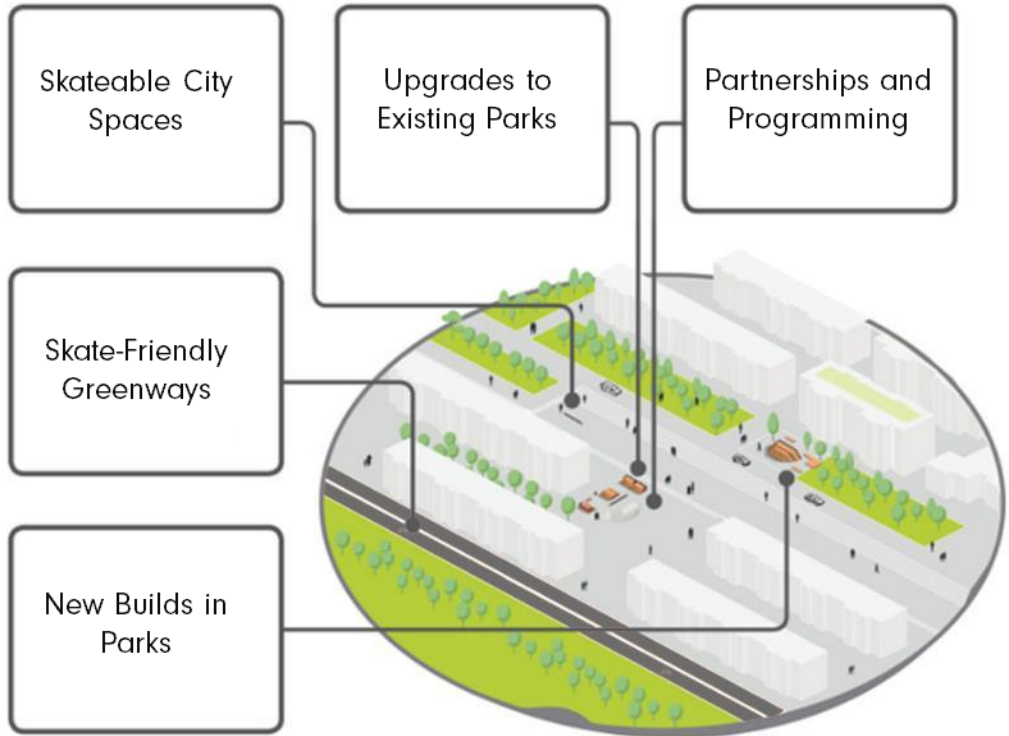


### CONNECTIVITY

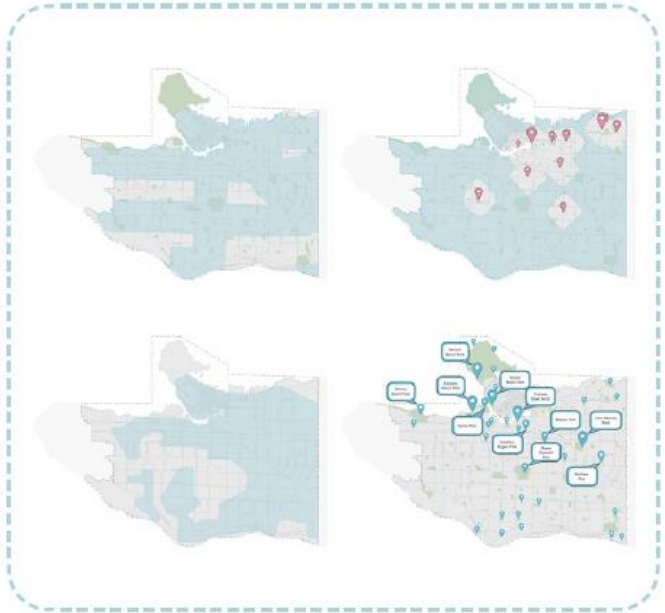


### ASSET TARGETS

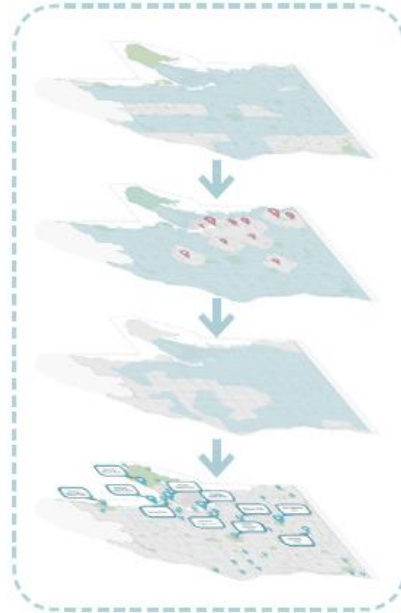




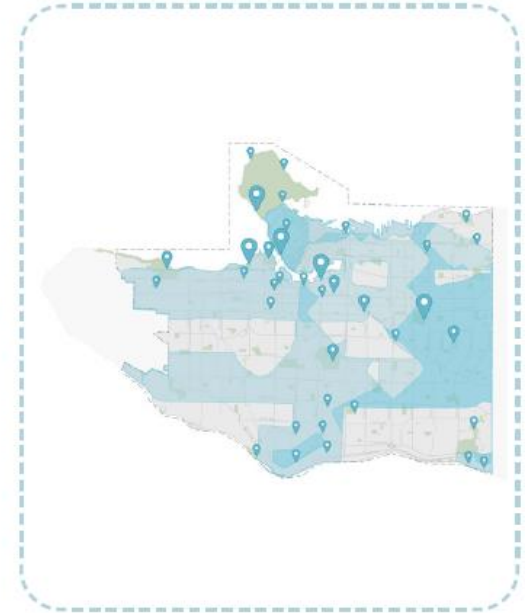
## 1. Key Criteria



## 2. Overlay Data

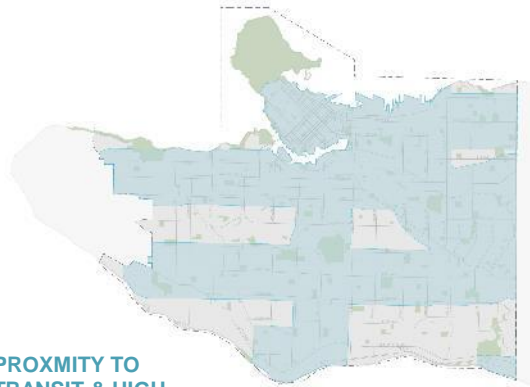


## 3. Prioritize Areas

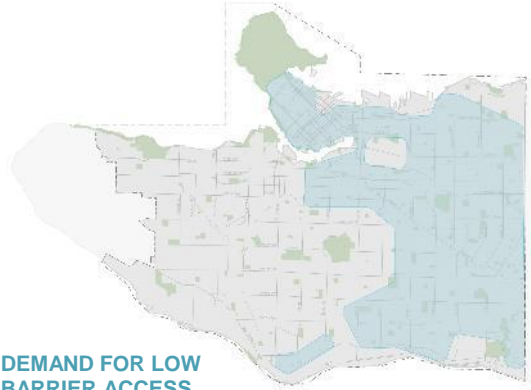




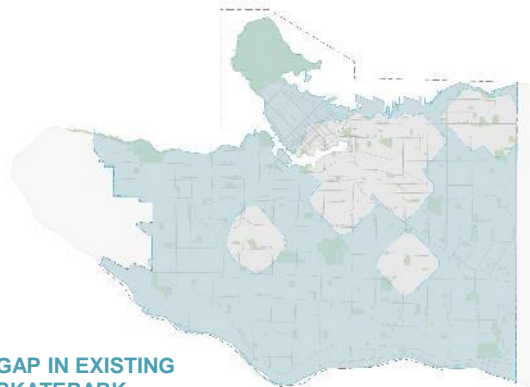
# Prioritizing Areas for New Builds in Parks



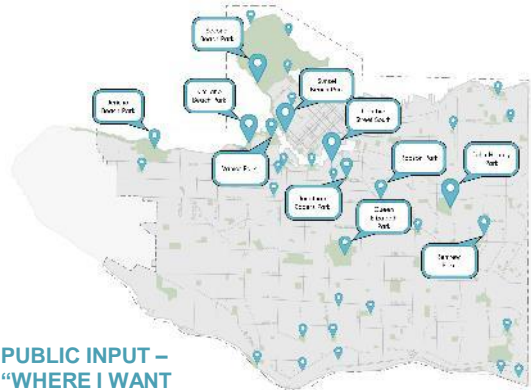
**PROXIMITY TO  
TRANSIT & HIGH  
DENSITY AREAS**



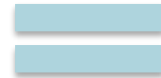
**DEMAND FOR LOW  
BARRIER ACCESS  
TO RECREATION**



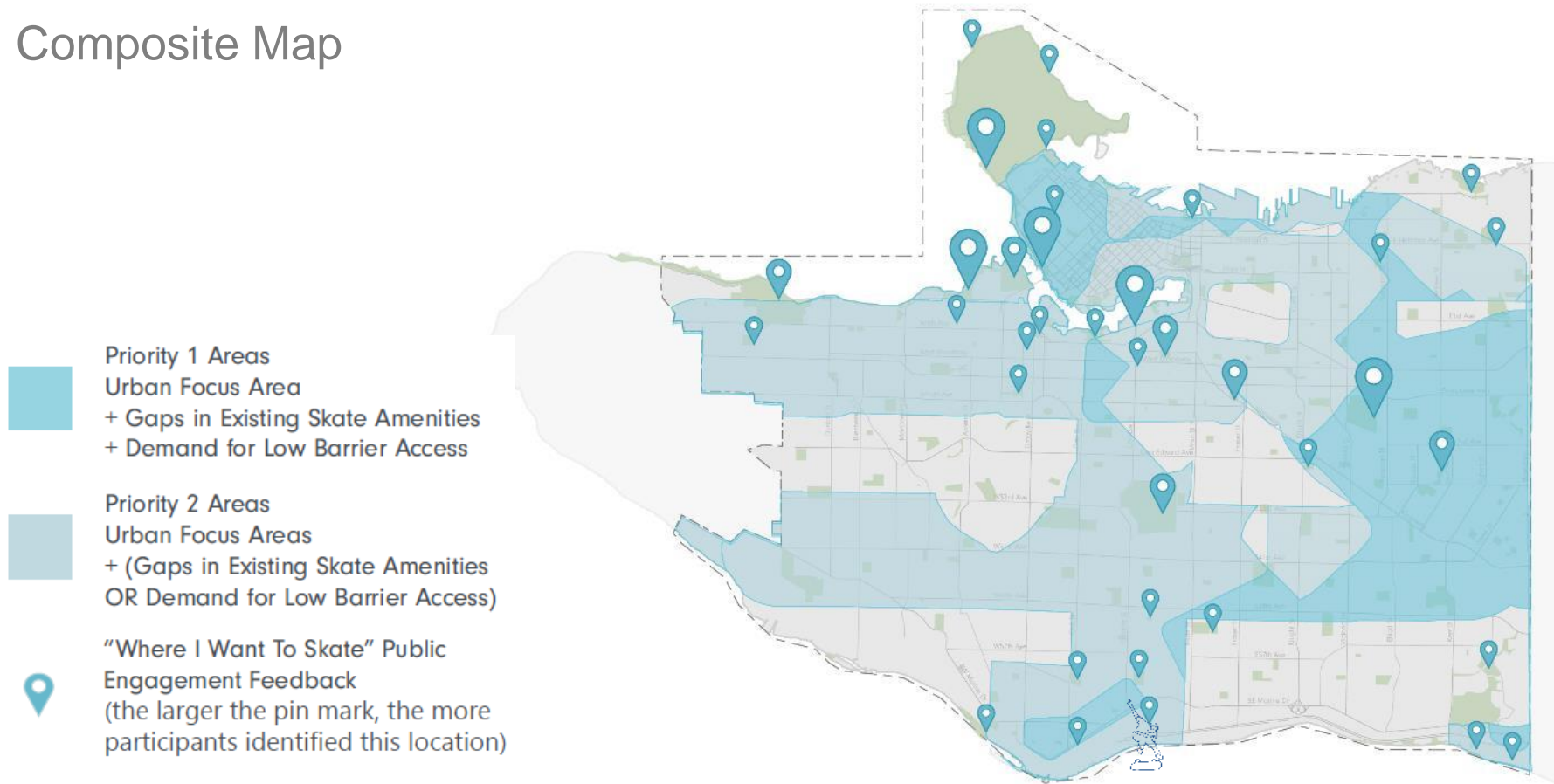
**GAP IN EXISTING  
SKATEPARK  
PROVISION**



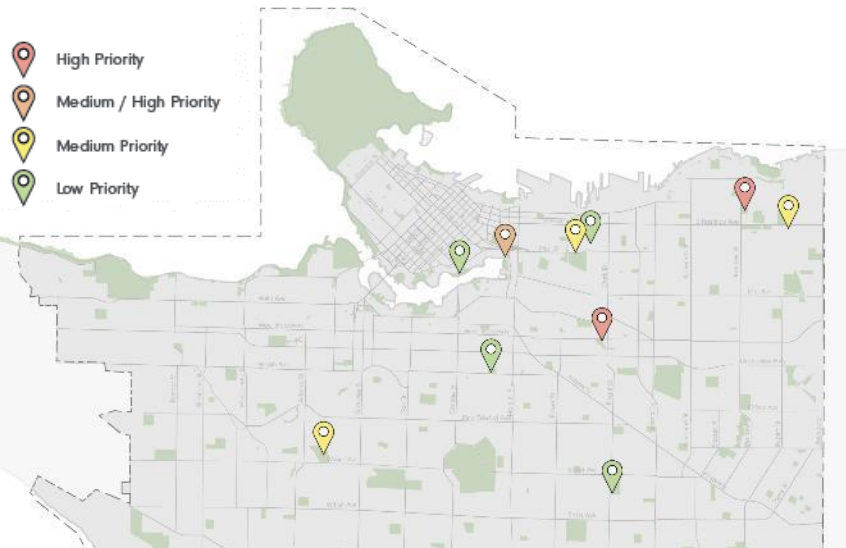
**PUBLIC INPUT –  
“WHERE I WANT  
TO SKATE”**



## Composite Map



# Prioritizing Upgrades to Existing Parks



## PRIORITIZATION OF EXISTING SKATE AMENITY UPGRADES

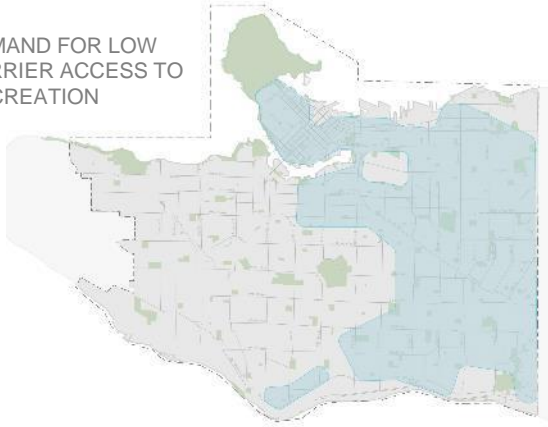
SKATE AMENITY	AGE	CONDITION	INTENSITY OF USE	NETWORK RANKING	PRIORITY
China Creek	Old	Moderate	High	High	High
Hastings*	Old	Moderate	High	High	High
Downtown Plaza**	Medium	Moderate	High	High	Medium - High
Leeside DIY	Medium	Moderate	Medium	Medium	Medium - High
Strathcona	Medium	Poor	Low	Moderate	Medium
Quilchena	New	Good	High	High	Medium
Coopers'	Medium	Moderate	Low	Low	Medium
Kensington	New	Good	Medium	Moderate	Low - Medium
Mt. Pleasant	New	Good	High	Low	Low - Medium
Adanac - Vernon Plaza	New	Moderate	Low	Low	Low



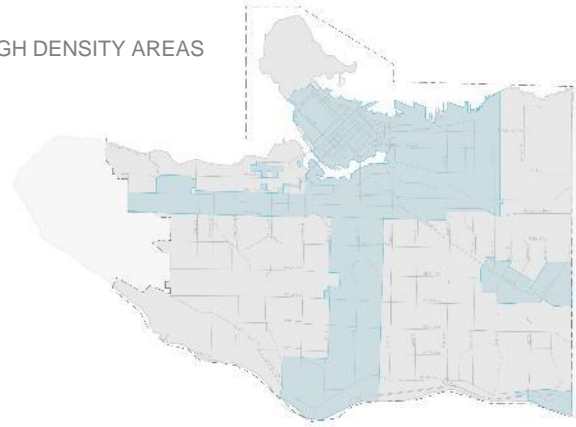


# Prioritizing Areas for Spots and Dots Between Parks

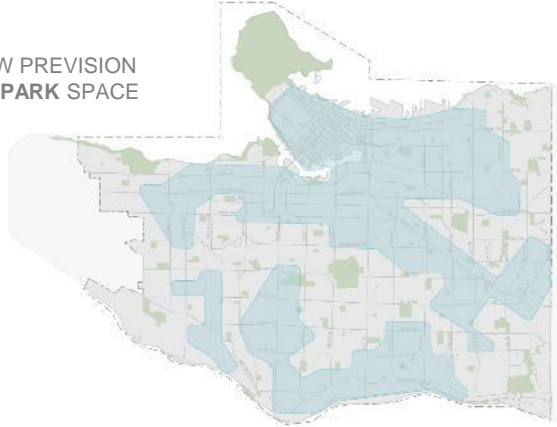
DEMAND FOR LOW BARRIER ACCESS TO RECREATION



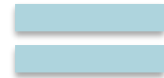
HIGH DENSITY AREAS



LOW PREVISION OF PARK SPACE

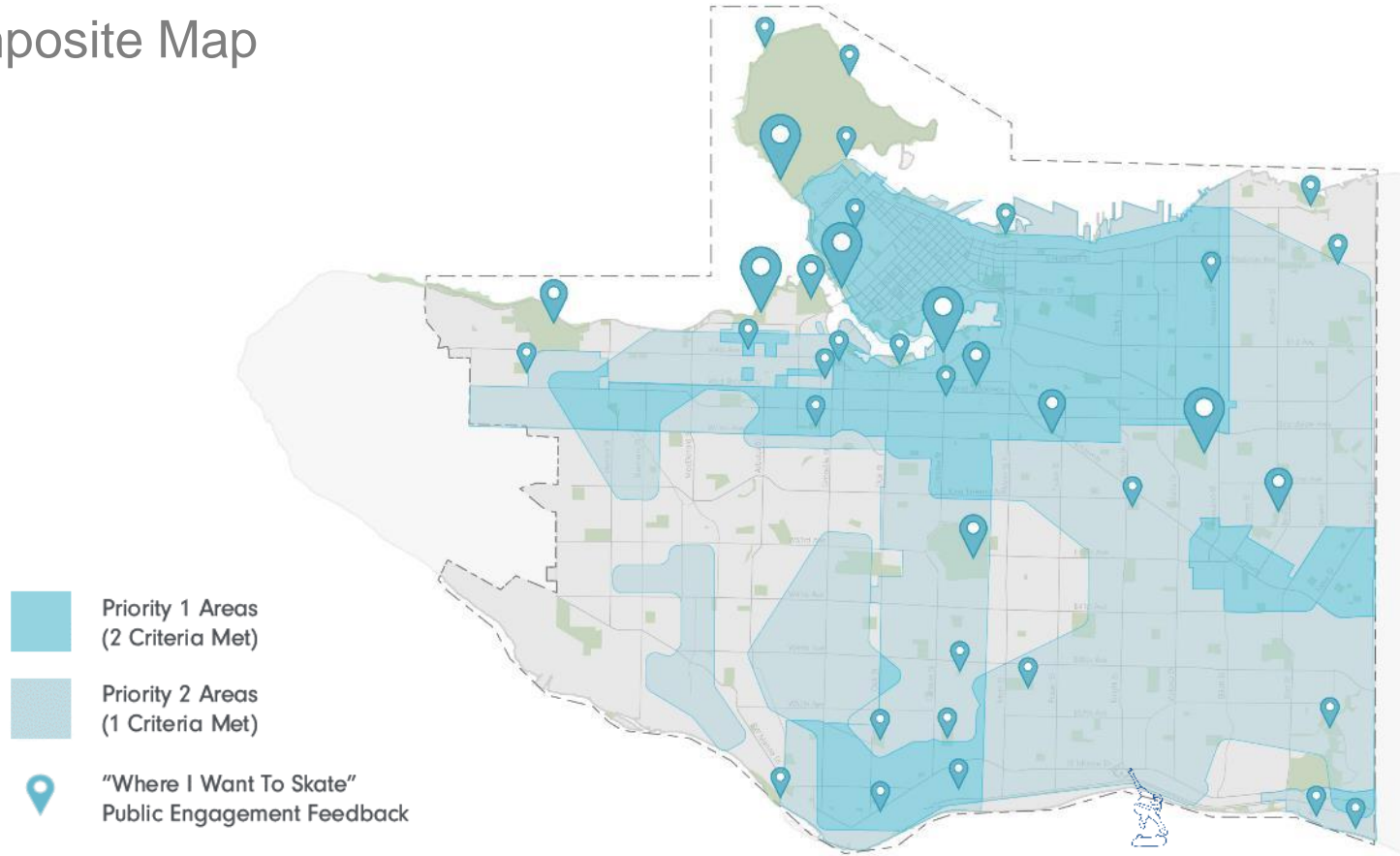


PUBLIC FEEDBACK – “WHERE I WANT TO SKATE”



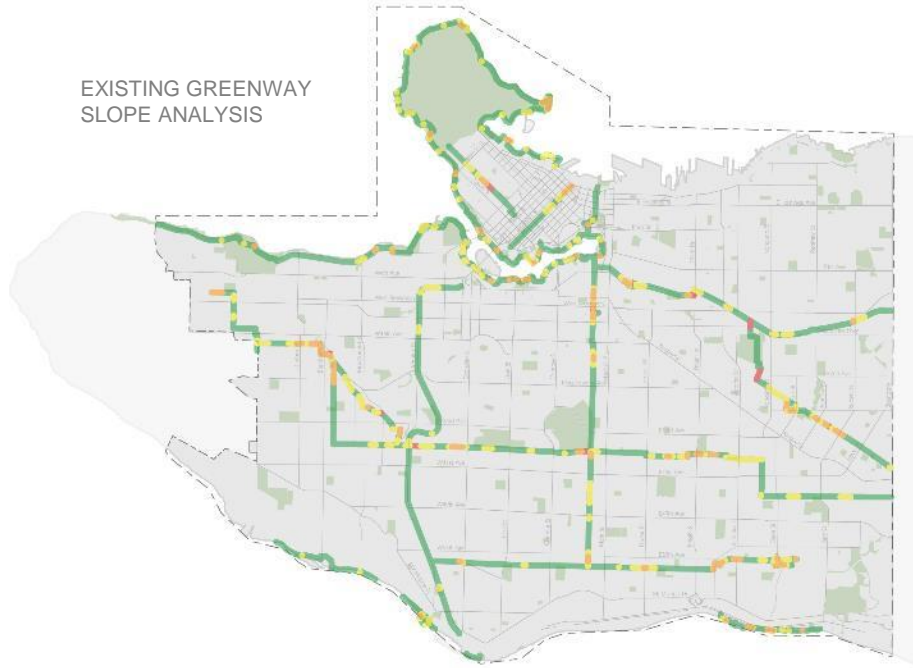
# Prioritizing Areas for Spots and Dots Between Parks

## Composite Map

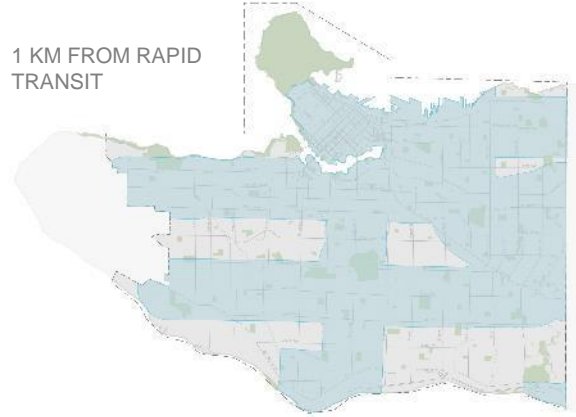


# Prioritizing Areas – Skate Friendly Greenways

EXISTING GREENWAY  
SLOPE ANALYSIS



1 KM FROM RAPID  
TRANSIT

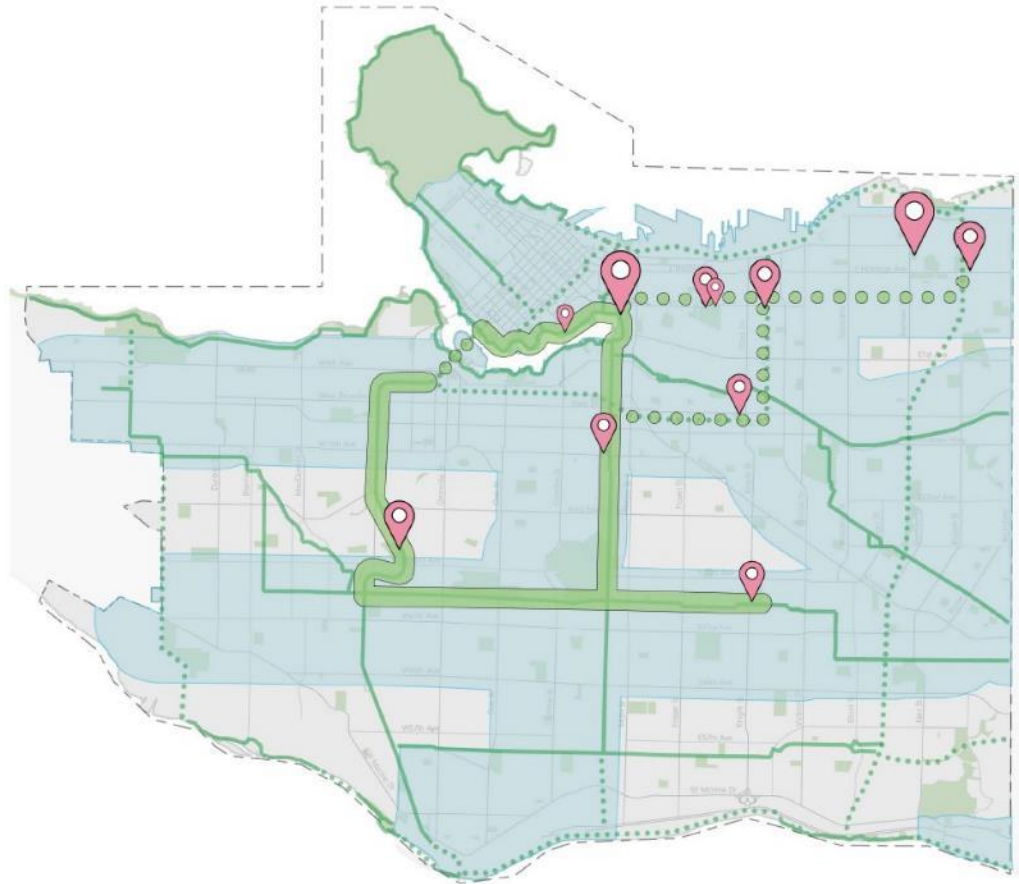


Existing Skateparks





# Prioritizing Areas – Skate Friendly Greenways



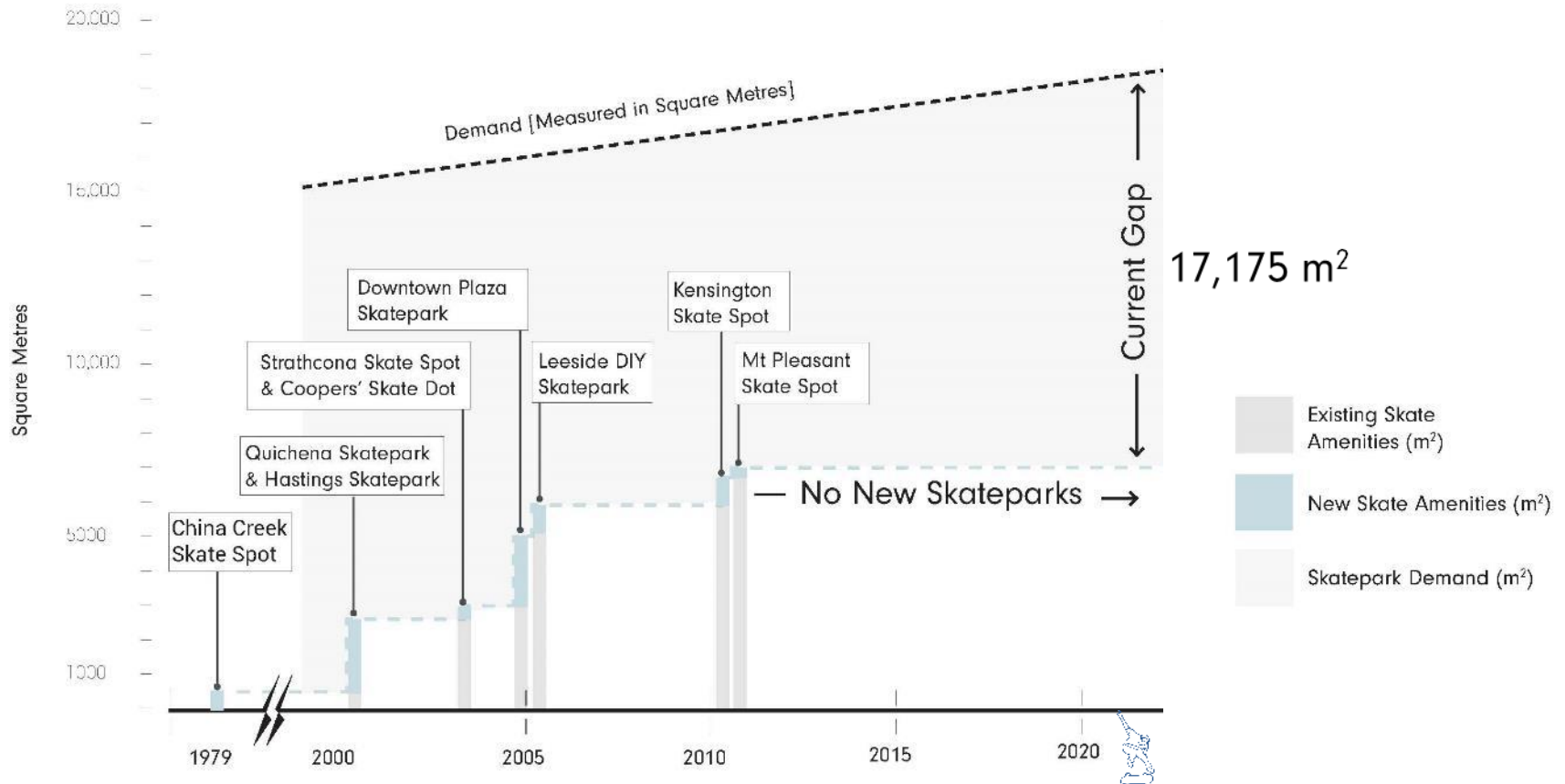
-  Existing Skate Amenities
-  Urban Focus Area
-  Existing Connecting Greenways
-  Existing Greenways
-  Proposed Greenways
-  Future Connecting Greenways + Adanac Bikeway



# Partnerships & Programming



# Gap in Demand for Space

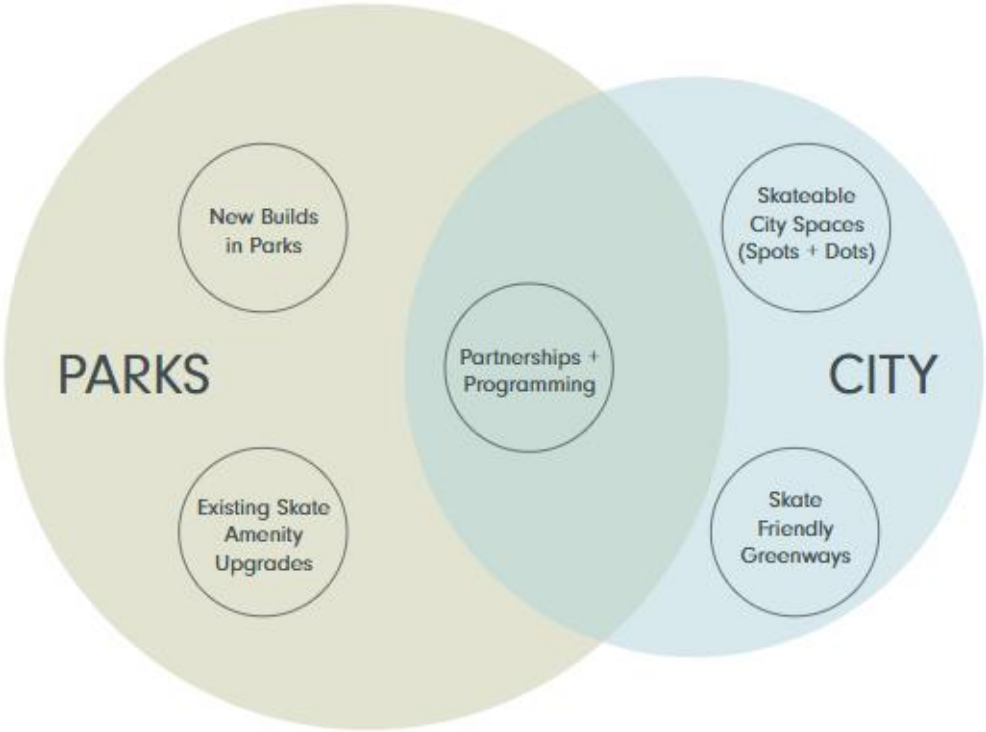




# Recommendations



# Implementation Areas - Overview



## KEY ACTIONS:

1

Construct **four new “network hub”** and **three new “neighbourhood”** scale **skate parks** to act as the foundation of the skate amenity network.

2

Construct **10 new skate “spots”** and **“dots”** in parks throughout the city as opportunities arise.





# Implementation Areas – Upgrades to Existing Skate Amenities

## KEY ACTIONS:

1

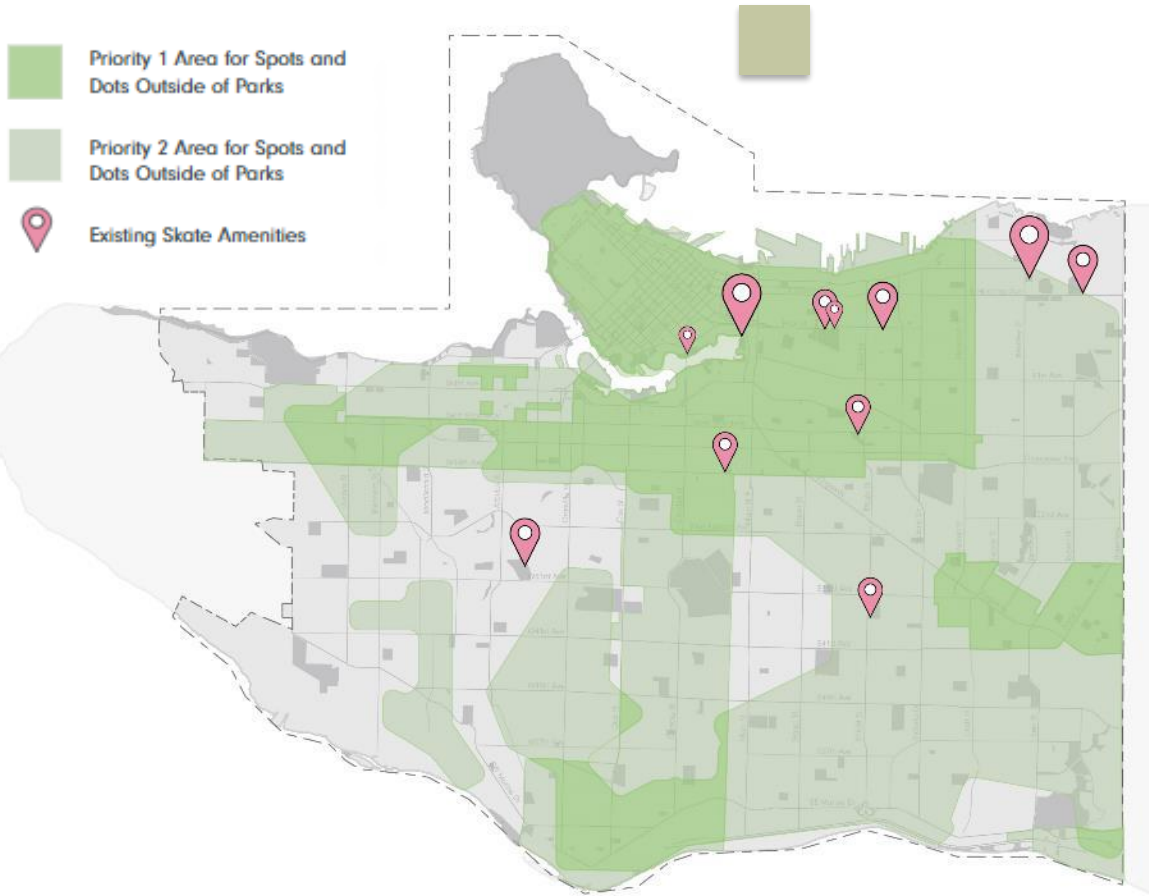
**Upgrade six existing skate amenities** with modern construction standards to ensure safe and interesting spaces that meet future demand.

2

Provide high level **oversight** on the condition and **maintenance needs** of skate parks.



# Implementation Areas – Skate Spots & Dots Outside of Parks

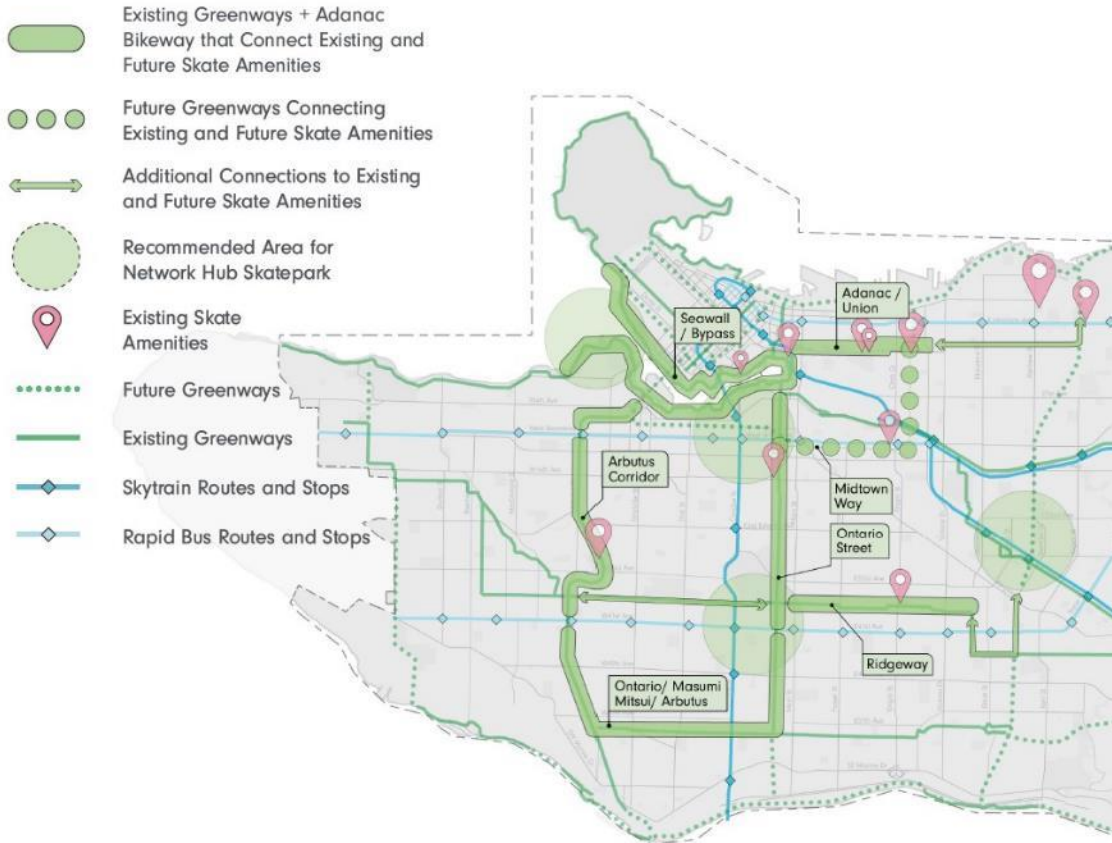


## KEY ACTIONS:

- 1** Work with the **City of Vancouver** to locate new, temporary or permanent spots and dots in the public
- 2** Collaborate with the **Vancouver School Board** to explore the creation of skate amenities as part of renovations in education settings and related amenity spaces.
- 3** On private lands, **encourage private developers** to provide skate-able features or spaces as part of the provision of public amenities



# Implementation Areas – Skate Friendly Greenways



## KEY ACTIONS:

- 1** Look for opportunities to collaborate with the City of Vancouver on the **integration of skate spots and dots**
- 2** Explore with the City of Vancouver ways to **improve greenways** connections between different skate amenities and rapid transit
- 3** Consider **small-wheeled access** to the overall greenway network to support skateboarding as a pivotal mode of sustainable transportation



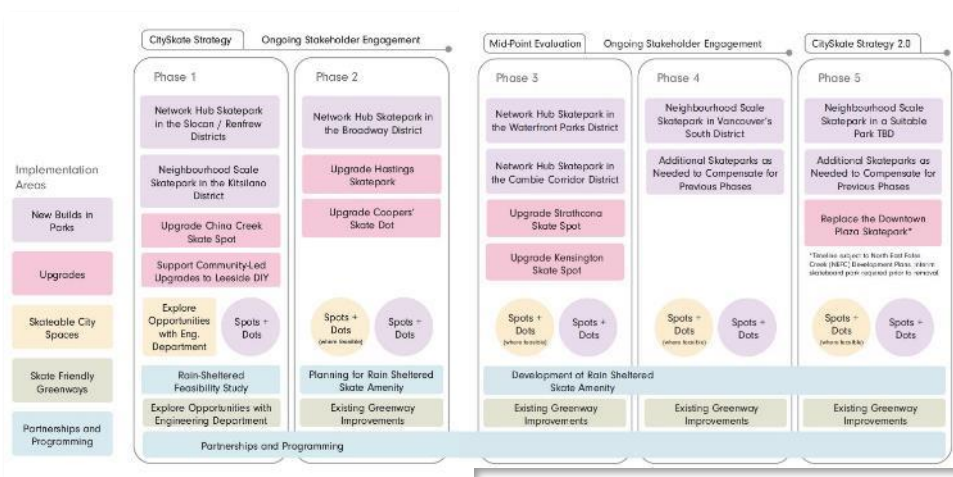




## KEY ACTIONS:

- 1** Park Board to seek access to year-round, rain sheltered skate amenities.
- 2** Designate existing and new spaces that promote a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) atmosphere.
- 3** Expand the Skate Hosts program for each neighbourhood or network hub scale skatepark
- 4** Coordinate skate programming and events internally and/or through partnerships with user groups.



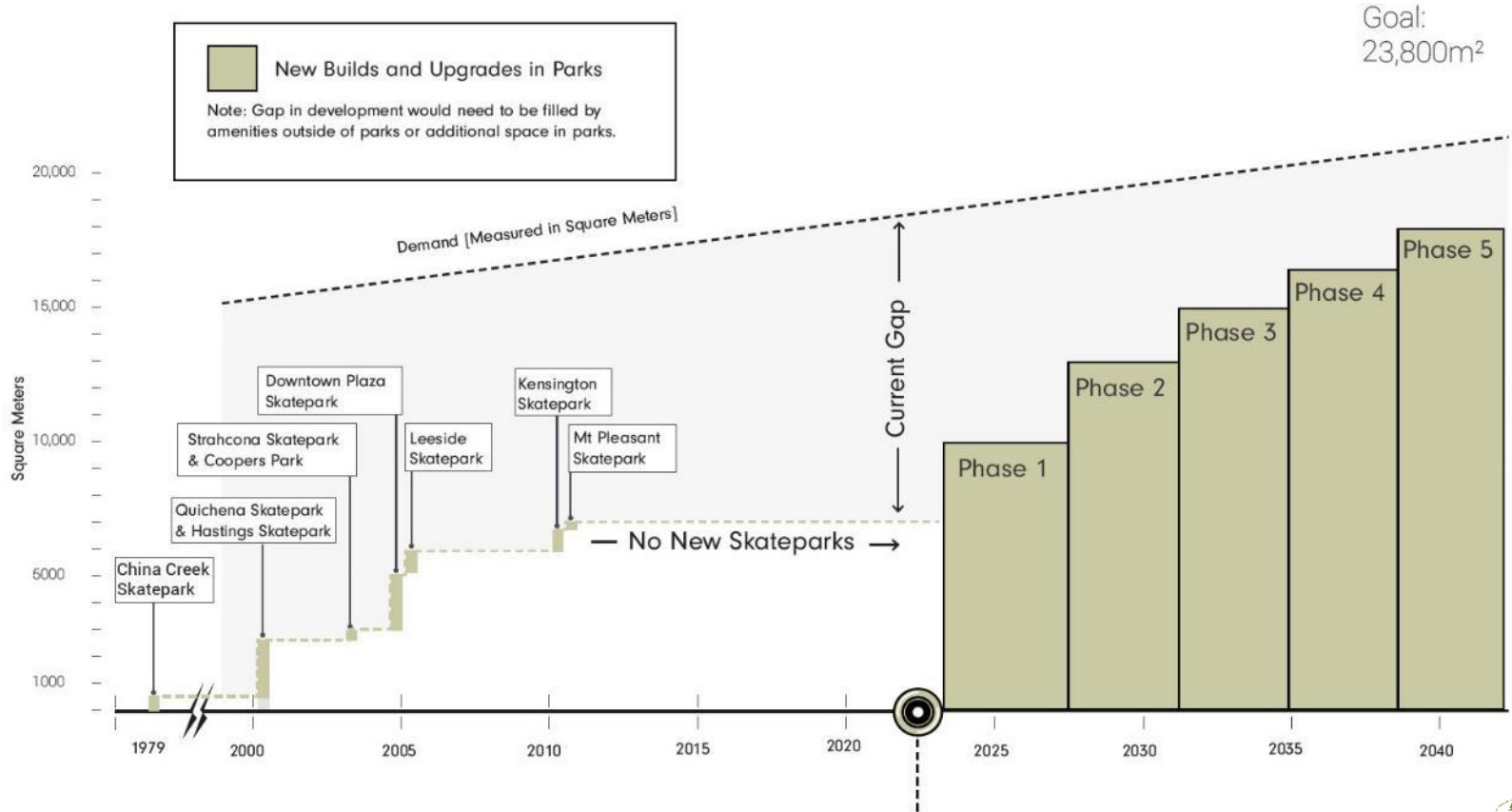


## PHASE 1 – 2023-2026

- Network Hub Skatepark in the Slocan Renfrew district
- Neighbourhood Scale Skatepark in Kitsilano District
- Rain-Sheltered Feasibility Study

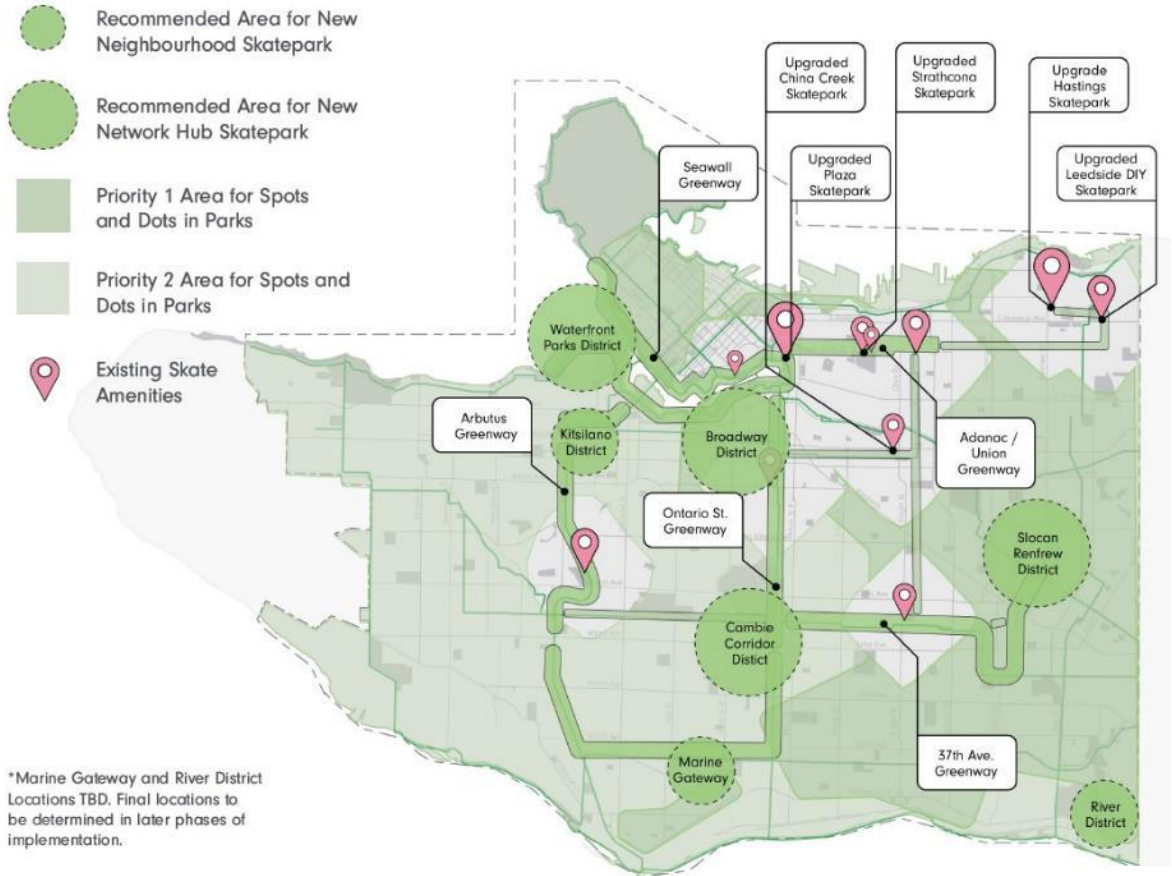


# Implementation Plan – Catching up with the 20 Year Vision





# Implementation Plan – 20 Year Vision Map



\*Marine Gateway and River District Locations TBD. Final locations to be determined in later phases of implementation.

## Current (2019-2022) Capital Plan - \$550k:

- Pending Board decision, staff will initiate:
  - Upgrades to China Creek skate park
  - Partial funding and oversight for Leaside DIY skate park upgrades in response to community proposal
  - Refurbishment of Norquay Park Ledges
  - Support the planning and funding of Hillcrest Curling Rink indoor skateboard summer program
- To complete full implementation plan (Phases 1 to 5) it would would take roughly 20 years and ~\$13-19 million to deliver skate amenities in parks



- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board adopt the “Skateboard Amenities Strategy,” as outlined in the staff report and attached as Appendix A, to guide the planning and implementation for skateboard and small-wheeled sport amenities in Vancouver;
- B. THAT the Board approve the “Quick Wins” identified in the report.







# Presentation Concurrences



Division/Department	Name & Title	Concurrence Date
[submitting division]	Manager (if not author)	
[impacted depts/division]	GM (or designate)	
<b>Decolonization, Arts &amp; Culture</b>	Rena Soutar, Manager	
<b>Planning &amp; Park Development</b>	Dave Hutch, Director	
<b>Recreation Services</b>	Steve Kellock, Director	
<b>Park Operations</b>	Amit Gandha, Director	
<b>Finance (FP&amp;A)</b>	Natalie Froehlich, Director	
<b>Strategic Ops &amp; Board Relations</b>	John Brodie, Director	
<b>Business Services</b>	Steve Jackson, Director	
<b>GM's Office</b>	Donnie Rosa, GM	GMO to obtain

- Should generally align with concurrences required for report; adjust as needed.
- ALL concurrences up to Park Board GM level to be obtained prior to submitting to PBGMO for final review & GM concurrence.