



An Inclusive Children's Water Park at Ross Park – Bridging the Gap in an Underserved Neighborhood

Excerpted from Minutes October 30, 2023

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MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

Amendments (revising A & D) MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. The children of Vancouver deserve access to inclusive and safe recreational facilities that promote physical activity and social interaction, fostering a sense of community among residents.
2. Ross Park, located in the underserved neighborhood of South East Vancouver, presents a unique opportunity to address the recreational needs of the children in this community.
3. An inclusive children's water park will not only provide much-needed fun and enjoyment for the young residents but also contribute to the overall development and well-being of the neighborhood.
4. The residents of South East Vancouver have expressed their desire for more recreational amenities to cater to the diverse needs of their children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to begin the engagement and design process for an inclusive and accessible spray park at Ross Park;
- B. THAT staff thoughtfully design the water park to ensure accessibility for children of all abilities, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive challenges. It should feature water play elements that engage and stimulate children's senses, providing a safe and enjoyable space for everyone to come together. The inclusive children's water park at Ross Park will not only enhance the quality of life for the local children but also create a focal point for community gatherings and activities, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the residents.
- C. THAT staff ensure the project will be undertaken with community engagement at its core, seeking input and feedback from the residents of South East Vancouver, community organizations and local stakeholders to incorporate their ideas and preferences into the park's design to ensure the project's success and sustainability.



- D. THAT staff work with City staff to allocate \$2.5M from the Growing Community Fund grant provided by Vancouver City Council and conduct the appropriate analysis and reporting back to both Park Board and City Council regarding the scope, cost, and delivery timelines of the Ross Park Spray Park project, ideally to be constructed by summer 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY