



INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SENSORY PARK

Report Back

Park Board Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Reconvened from Monday, September 23, 2024



- To provide an update on inclusive playgrounds and accessibility updates in Vancouver Parks;
- To respond to the [January 23, 2024 Board Motion](#), Creating Vancouver's First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park for Children; and
- To seek a decision for staff to proceed with posting a public Request for Proposals for consultant services for the concept design of an Inclusive Destination Playground and Splash Pad at Memorial South Park.

The initiatives identified in this report are supported by principles outlined in the following plans and strategies:



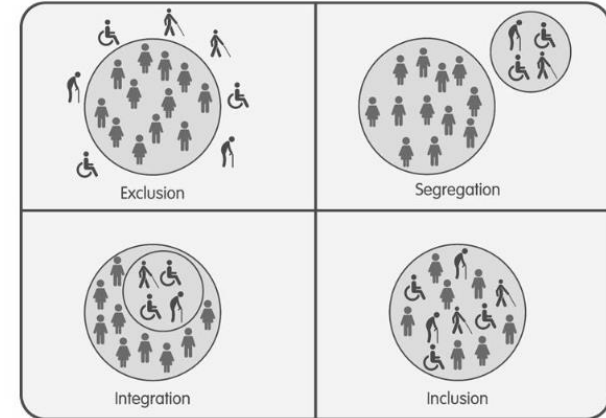
- The first 'Approach to Action' for Parks is to: ***'Improve the safety, cleanliness and physical accessibility of all parks to increase access for all.'*** This action is supported by the following initiatives:
 - (P.1.2) Audit the physical accessibility of all park amenities to inform a feasibility study to consider opportunities for improvement (Universal and Inclusive Design Audit and Feasibility Study).
 - (P.1.3) Design and build five additional fully - accessible destination play areas throughout the city, in addition to the already in progress project of integrating accessible play features in parks.
- Identifies 2040 Asset Targets for Play Areas as follows:
 - Provide universally accessible play features at all play areas.
 - Provide at least 5 fully universally accessible destination play areas (in diverse geographic areas: NE, SE, SW, NW and Downtown).

- Vancouver's park system contains 168 playgrounds
- Renewals prioritized per recommendations in the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Assessment of Play spaces (2015)
- Universal Design principles guide new and renewed play spaces
- 44 playgrounds have been renewed since 2015 and 10 playground renewals are currently in progress



Champlain Heights Park

- Inclusion and accessible can mean different things to different people
- Inclusion goes beyond access
- Inclusivity is a comprehensive term that encompasses issues of physical accessibility as well as sensory, emotional, cultural, and social considerations
- Creating a play space that is 'fully' accessible and/or inclusive for everyone is not likely possible



Source: KOMPAN Play Institute, North America



Source: KBT Play
<https://playequipment.com.au/>

- Staff continue on-going work to further enhance inclusivity and accessibility through park renewals
- Park Finder being updated with list of inclusive play features
- Accessibility Planner hired in Q3 2024
- Staff are evaluating potential sites for 5 inclusive destination playgrounds (as per VanPlay) and recommending Memorial South Park as the first site for implementation



Beaconsfield Park

- Washroom accessibility upgrades: have been achieved across Destination Parks, and staff are working through Community Parks
- Washroom VanMaps updates: with new information on the accessibility of park washrooms
- Marpole Community Centre: is aiming for Rick Hansen Gold Certification and will include a sensory room accessed from the main lobby for the benefit of neurodiverse users



Winona Park

Inclusive Destination Playground and Splash Pad

- Memorial South Park identified as the first of five inclusive playgrounds based on the following criteria:

Quadrant	SE			
Neighborhood	KILLARNEY	KENSINGTON- CEDAR COTTAGE	KILLARNEY	SUNSET
Criteria	Champlain Heights Park	Kensington Park	Killarney Park	Memorial South Park
Classification	1	1	1	1
Washroom on Site	2	2	2	2
Proximity to EIZ (<200M or 5 min walk)	0	1	1	1
Ex Playground	0	1	1	3
Community Center	1	1	1	0
Recent Renewal	-1			
Score	3	6	6	7
Scoring	Weight			
Destination Classification	2			
Community Classification	1			
Washroom on site (non-accessible)	1			
Washroom on site (accessible)	2			
Proximity to EIZ (<200M or 5 min walk)	1			
Ex Playground (Ranked 1-3 in 2015 conditions assessment)	3			
Ex Playground (Ranked 4-6 in 2015 conditions assessment)	1			
Community Center	1			
Recent Renewal (negative score)	-1			



Kitsilano Beach Park

- Funding is provisionally allocated in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan through the 'New Playgrounds and Spray Parks' account to proceed with the concept design and design guidelines
- A draft capital project budget of \$500k inclusive of project management fees has been estimated for this planning phase
- A request will be made in the 2027 to 2030 capital plan for funding for the construction phase of the inclusive destination playground and splash pad (currently estimated at \$2.5m).
- Additional funding will be sought through a fundraising campaign through the Park Board's Fundraising and Development Department

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct Staff to proceed with posting a public Request for Proposals seeking consulting services for the concept design of an Inclusive Destination Playground and Splash Pad at Memorial South Park.

Thank you.
Questions or comments?

