



Report Date: September 12, 2024

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-30

[Submit comments to the Board](#)

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
FROM: Director, Park Planning and Development  
SUBJECT: Improving Disc Golf at Vancouver Parks - Report Back

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Board approve the scope of work for a disc golf plan.
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to consider this plan as a priority for consideration in the 2025 Service Plan, ahead of other initiatives, including those identified as priorities in VanPlay, subject to approval of the 2025 Service Plan and 2025 capital budget.

## PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

This report outlines the scope, budget and project length for a disc golf plan. It is in response to a motion approved at the April 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting at which the Board [directed staff](#) to “report back in Q3 2024 on the scope, budget and schedule required to develop a plan for the expansion of disc golf in Vancouver,” and that the report back “provide the opportunity to incorporate this work into the 2025 Service Plan.”

If directed by the Board, staff will consider the completion of a disc golf plan as part of the 2025 Service Plan and budget, as there would be a need to deprioritize existing and anticipated planning and strategy work as identified in VanPlay to free up the necessary staff resources.

## BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

On October 19, 2020, the Park Board approved the [VanPlay Framework](#), for Vancouver’s [Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#). VanPlay sets priorities and provides tools and policies to support the pursuit of equity, connectivity and access to parks and recreation for all. The Framework provides a succinct method for referencing and implementing VanPlay directions. This plan aligns with VanPlay’s Direction to welcome everyone. VanPlay did not explicitly include disc golf amenities within the assessed park and recreation services, however, it does recognize that a golf plan could create guiding principles and opportunities to expand programming options within golf courses (pg. 33). The Golf Plan, which is underway, does not include consideration of other programming options, but this could be considered within a separate Disc Golf Plan.

On April 22, 2024, the Board [directed staff](#) to report back in Q3 2024 on the scope, budget and

schedule required to develop a plan for the expansion of disc golf in Vancouver.

**CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND**

There are currently two disc golf courses located in the Park Board’s parks: Quilchena Park and Queen Elizabeth Park. A map is included in Appendix A.

The April 2024 [Board Motion](#) provided the following background:

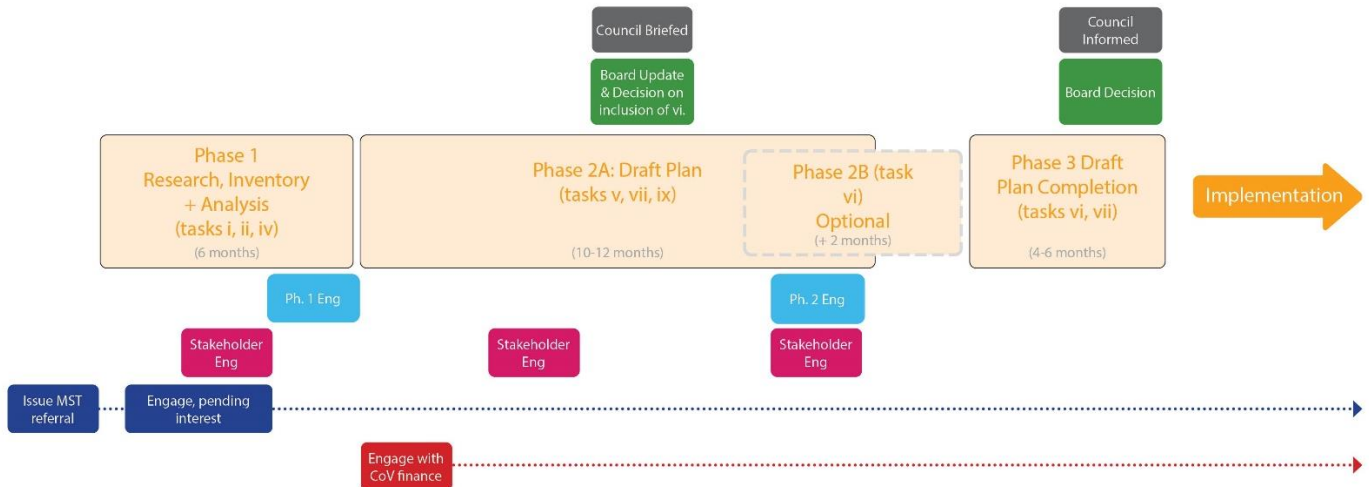
- Disc golf is a free-to-play, low barrier-to-entry sport that is accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities, and can be played year-round;
- Vancouver currently has three disc golf courses located at Jericho Lands, Quilchena Park, and Queen Elizabeth Park, and
- The Jericho Lands course will eventually be removed with the upcoming development of the Jericho Lands, adding additional traffic to the already busy remaining courses.

VanPlay provided direction to undertake several detailed plans and strategies over the first 10 years (Report 4). A list of plans and strategies, with a status update for each is included in Appendix B to provide context on work which may be deferred in order to free up staff resources for a Disc Golf Plan. VanPlay did not provide direction to undertake a Disc Golf Plan, and doing so will require delaying the development of other initiatives including the Sport Court Strategy.

**DISCUSSION**

**Scope of Work**

The April 2024 Motion provided a draft scope of work, which has been used to inform the recommended scope, below.



**Pre-Planning (not included in project timeline) (2 months)**

- Project mobilization and refine scope and work plan; and
- Issue project referral to MST.

### Phase 1: Research, Inventory and Analysis (6 months)

- Project launch;
- “Analysis of industry best practices from across North America”; (2024 motion i);
- “Inventory of the current Vancouver Park Board disc golf courses including, but not limited to, site conditions (drainage, grade, tree cover), conflict with other park uses, and proximity to transit/active transportation routes”; (2024 motion ii);
- “Suggest compatible park amenities that can be co-located with disc golf courses; (2024 motion iv);
- Stakeholder engagement: to identify usage trends, needs and wants in the local disc golf community (2024 motion iii); and
- Public engagement round 1.

### Phase 2: Draft Plan (10-12 months)

- “Recommend improvements to existing courses that would improve playability and user experience”; (2024 motion v);
- “Include estimated capital and operating funding required for any recommendations”; (2024 motion vii);
- “Identify opportunities for disc golf events/activations, such as pop-ups and tournaments, at Park Board facilities, such as golf or pitch-and-putt courses, that aligns with the Board approved “Think Big” strategy. Consideration will be given to revenue impacts of these opportunities”; (2024 motion ix);
- Board update and Board decision on whether the Board would direct staff to undertake Phase 2B;
- Stakeholder engagement rounds 2 and 3; and
- Public engagement round 2.

### Phase 2B (Inclusion pending Phase 2 Board decision) (2-month addition)

- “Recommend and prioritize potential locations for new and/or expanded disc golf courses within existing Vancouver parks, or a subset of this item”. (2024 motion vi).

### Phase 3: Draft Plan Completion (4-6 months)

- Complete plan, in consideration of Phase 2 stakeholder and public feedback;
- “Advise the Board on the advisability of appointing a Park Board Commissioner liaison to VanCity Disc Golf” (2024 motion viii); and
- Bring final report to the Board for decision.

### *Phase 2 Report Back to Board*

Staff recommend this Board decision point as a check in on the scope of work. The 2024 motion included scope to: Recommend and prioritize potential locations for new and/or expanded disc golf courses within existing Vancouver parks (2024 motion vi). Staff recommend that at this phase of the planning process, additional information will be available to validate whether the *expansion*

or addition of disc golf courses would be recommended. This will consider the findings of the review of industry best practices and trends, opportunities for co-location, identification of disc golf events/activation opportunities and a review of recommended site improvements for existing courses. If the Board directs staff to proceed with item vi staff will adjust the timeline, sequence, and format of public and stakeholder engagement accordingly.

#### *Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh (MST) Referral*

A project referral to MST would be issued prior to commencing work, and staff would engage with MST through the planning process and implementation.

#### *Public and Stakeholder Engagement*

The 2024 board motion directed staff to undertake engagement with the local disc golf community to identify usage trends, needs and wants. The scope of work in this report recommends two additional rounds of stakeholder engagement with the local disc golf community, as identified in the phases of work outlined above. The scope of work also recommends two phases of light touch public engagement which would include site signage, online surveys and 1 pop up event per phase. Staff recommend erecting signage on site at the disc golf courses to engage regular users (stakeholders), casual users (public) and other members of the public who may be interested in changes in their local parks. In Phase 2, signage would also be erected at any parks where new or expanded disc golf opportunities are proposed.

#### *Engagement with City Council, Corporate Finance*

In response to the 2023 Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) recommendation #1, better engagement with City Council, this proposed planning process meets the process as outlined in the recent [June 2024 Board memo](#), as staff will engage with City of Vancouver long term financial planning staff and inform Council at key planning milestones.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Staff estimate a project budget of \$150,000 would be required, to cover staff time and a small fund for engagement disbursements. The scope of work outlined in this report would be completed by staff, without procuring consultants. Funding can be made available in the current capital plan, however, other anticipated project work, such as priorities identified in Van Play, would need to be deferred to accommodate for this scope of work to be undertaken during the current capital plan based off staff resourcing.

The disc golf plan scope includes estimating capital and operating funding required for any recommendations.

## **SCHEDULE CONSIDERATIONS**

This report does not provide a target start and completion date for the contemplated scope of work. If the Board decides to proceed with a disc golf plan it will be under consideration in the 2025 Service Plan and 2025 Capital Budget for prioritization for staff resourcing.

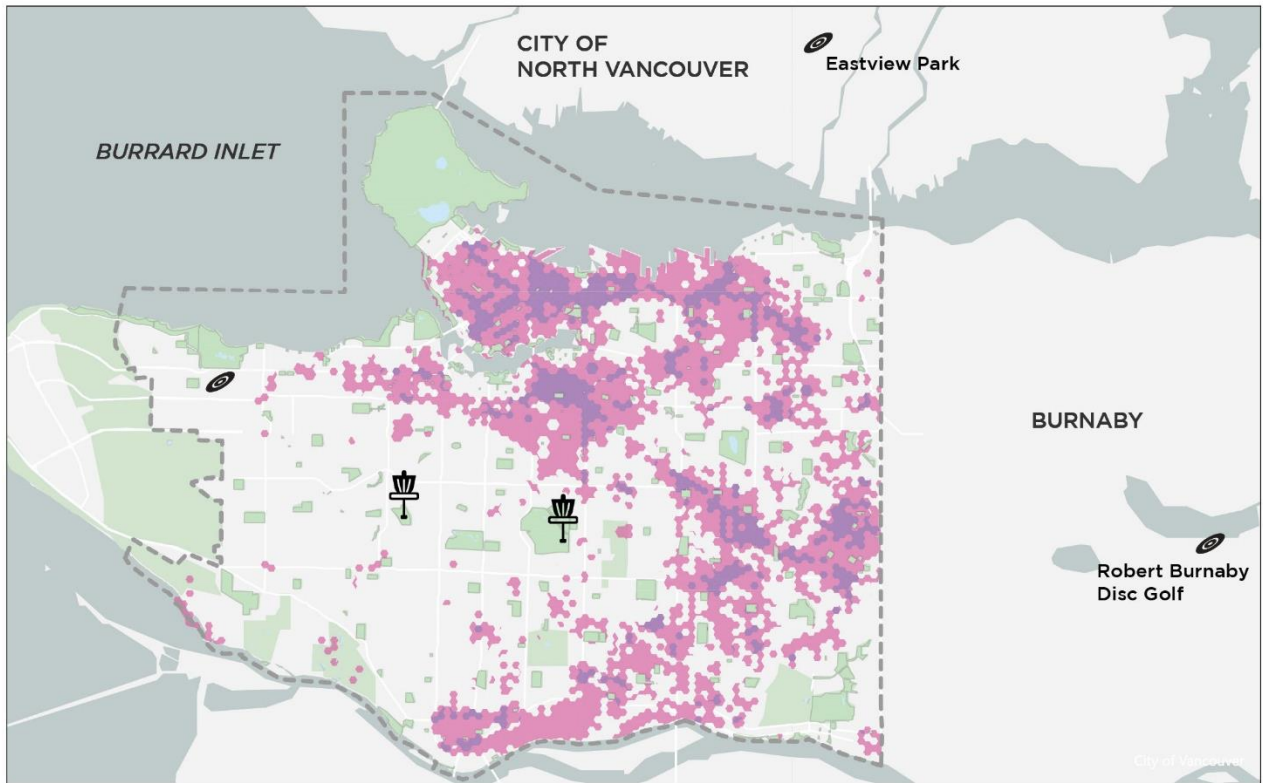
This scope of work is anticipated to take approximately 2 years. Some aspects of the timeline will be fixed, such as timelines for preparation, implementation and summarizing of engagement events, or preparation and approval timelines for Board reports and updates. Timeline may also be impacted by scheduling of public engagement events, as engagement launches are considered on a city-wide scale, and consideration is given to avoiding project launches during certain periods, such as the month of December.

**CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

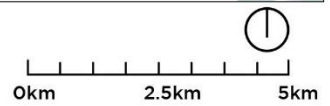
The proposed scope of work and schedule recommended by staff will produce a thoughtful, Disc Golf Plan developed through an analysis of the sport, its fit within the Vancouver parks system, and opportunities for improvement to the system with input from disc golfers and residents alike. Subject to a decision by the Board, a Disc Golf Plan can be identified as a park planning project for consideration of prioritization in the 2025 Service Plan and for funding from the 2025 Capital Budget.

### APPENDIX A

### DISC GOLF COURSE LOCATIONS MAP



-  Park Board Disc Golf Courses
-  Non Park Board Disc Golf Courses
-  VanPlay Equity Initiative Zones 2 Indicators
-  VanPlay Equity Initiative Zones 3 Indicators
-  Park space
-  City of Vancouver Boundary



## **APPENDIX B**

### **VANPLAY IDENTIFIED STRATEGIES AND PLANS (SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM)**

Following are the plans and strategies included, with a status update for each:

In the short term, aiming for years 1-3 (2020-2022)

- Sports Field Strategy (R.1.4) - **complete**
- Skateboard Strategy (R.1.5) - **complete**
- Golf Strategy (R.1.6) – *Golf Services Plan **underway***
- Women in Sport Strategy (R.2.4) – *not started*
- Outdoor Court Management Plan (R.2.7) – *not started*

In the medium term, aiming for years 3-7 (2022-2027):

- Fieldhouse Strategy (F.2.9) – **underway**
- Playground Strategy (R.1.8) – *not started*
- Lawn Bowling Strategy (R.1.9) – *not started*
- Sport Court Strategy (R.1.10) – *not started*
- Reconciliation Through Recreation Strategy (R.2.13) – *not started*
- Update 2008 Sport for Life Strategy (R.2.15) – *not started*
- Update 2014 Strategic Youth Plan (R.2.16) – *not started*

VanPlay did not provide direction to undertake a Disc Golf Plan, and doing so will require delaying the development of a plan and/ or strategy noted above.