



VANPLAY 2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Park Board's 25 Year
Masterplan for Parks and
Recreation Services

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2025





RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.



LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION



To provide an annual update on the implementation of VanPlay, per Board direction

OUTLINE:

- Overview of VanPlay
- 2024 Implementation

Updates

- Data
- Highlights
- Key Takeaways

OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY



The Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan is intended to guide the work of the Vancouver Park Board over 25 years.

VISION

To be the leader in parks and recreation by connecting people to green space, active living and community.

MISSION

Provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities and the environment.



OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY



Inventory & Analysis

10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years

3 Strategic Bold Moves

The "Playbook"
(Implementation Plan)

VanPlay
Framework



OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY - FRAMEWORK



VanPlay Framework:

- Mission
- Vision
- 10 Goals

- 3 Directions/ Bold Moves
- 24 Approaches for Action
- 160 Initiatives

OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY - FRAMEWORK



Deliver
Services
Equitably

A fair and
effective parks
and recreation
system.

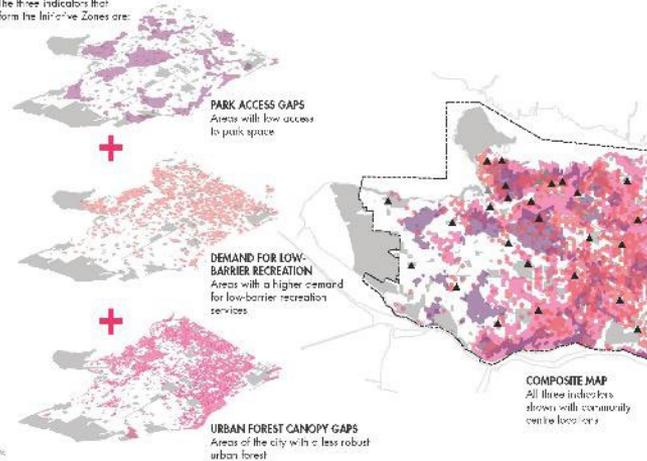


Bold Move: Equity

APPROACH

INITIATIVE ZONES MAPPING

The three indicators that form the Initiative Zones are:



- Equity Initiative Zones map
- Nurture partnerships
- Address inequities
- Identify and challenge colonial structures

OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY - FRAMEWORK



Bold Move: Asset Needs

ASSET TARGET SNAPSHOT

DISTANCE TO ASSETS
This diagram shows the relative location of various types of recreation facilities.



- Provide safe, clean and welcoming parks and recreation spaces.
- Reduce barriers to access
- Listen, learn and co-create



Welcome Everyone

Parks and recreation experiences that improve quality of life.

OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY - FRAMEWORK



Bold Move: Connectivity

CONNECTIVITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This vision is guided by four main principles:

1. Thread active communities



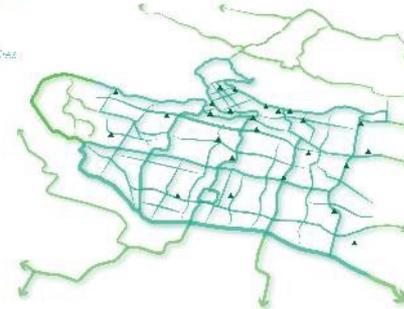
2. Flow of water



3. Sense of place

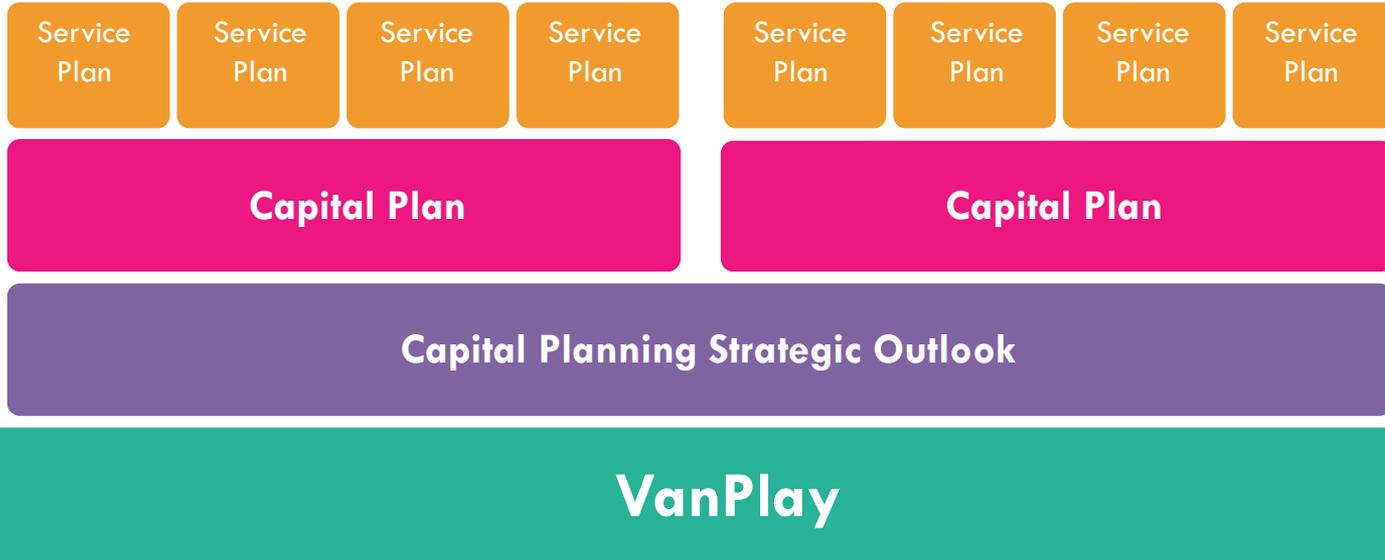


4. Thriving ecosystems



- Routes to parks and recreation places
- Thread the unique history
- Provide flexible amenities
- Improve the quality of rainwater
- Connect and enrich ecosystems

OVERVIEW OF VANPLAY – Foundation for Other Planning



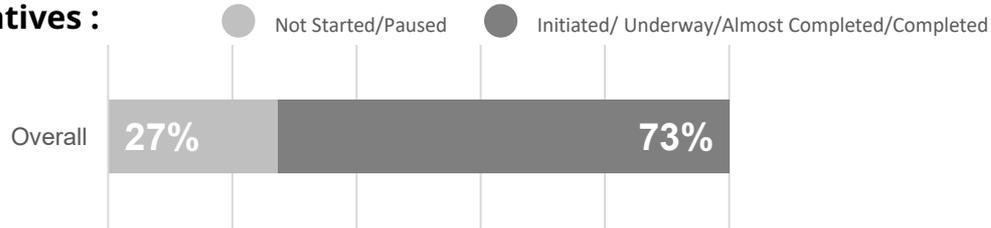


2024 Implementation Update - Data

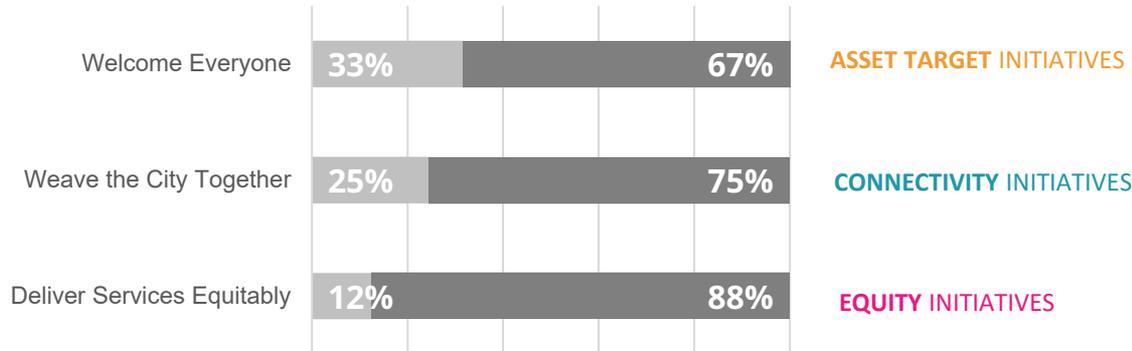
2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – BIG PICTURE



Percentage of Total Initiatives :



By VanPlay Framework Direction:



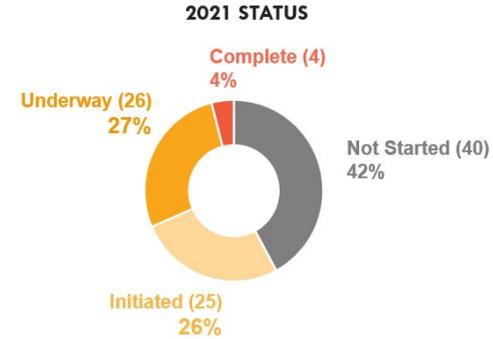
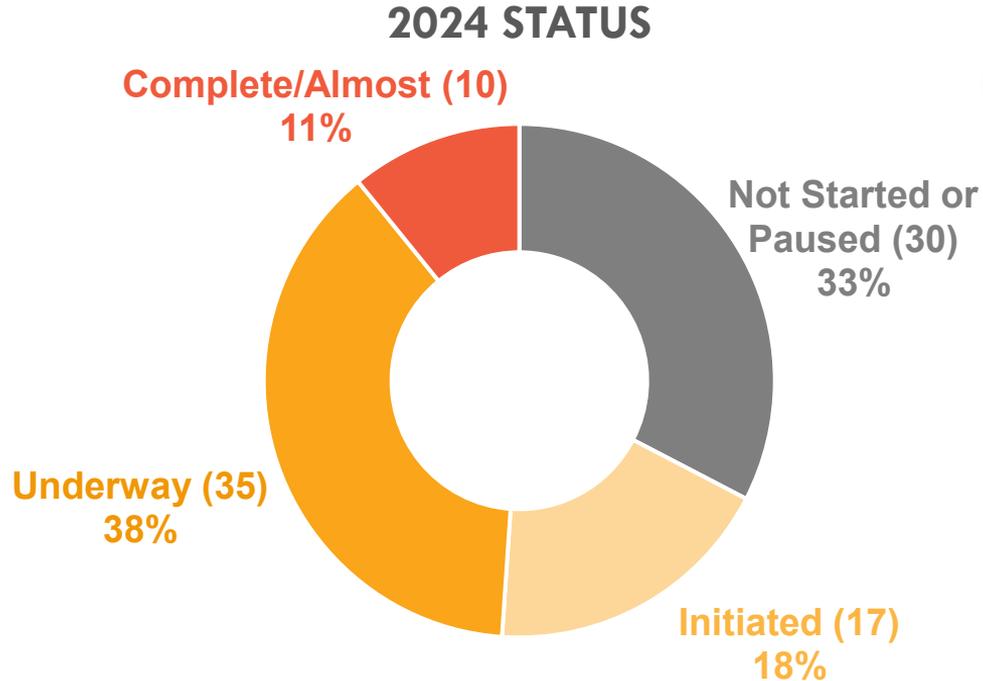
2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - DATA

FRAMEWORK DIRECTION: WELCOME EVERYONE

Parks and recreation experiences that improve quality of life

92

INITIATIVES TOTAL



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - DATA

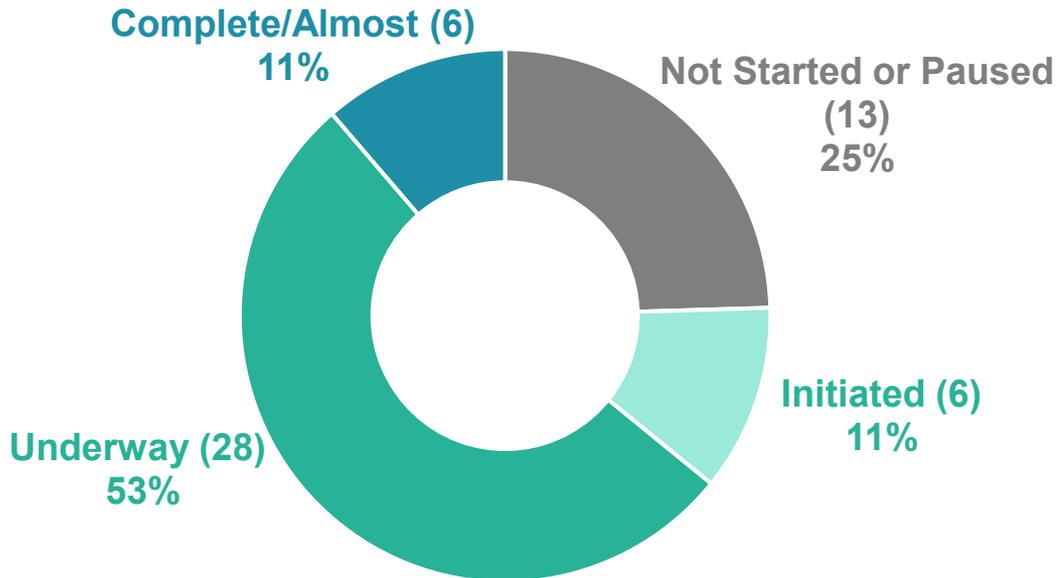
FRAMEWORK DIRECTION: WEAVE THE CITY TOGETHER

Parks, nature, recreation and culture integrated into everyday life

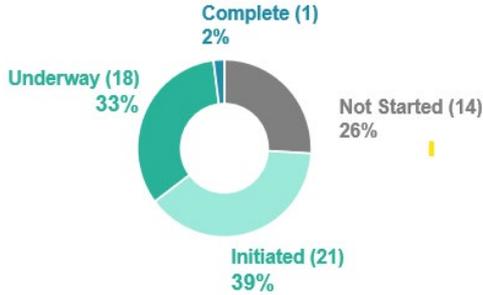
53

INITIATIVES TOTAL

2024 STATUS



2021 STATUS

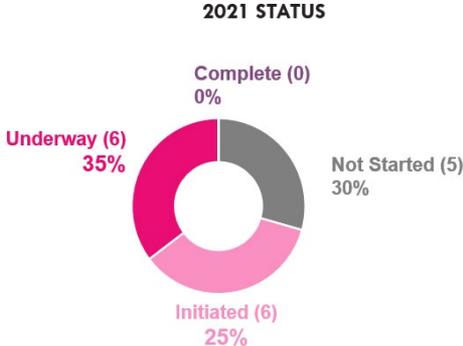
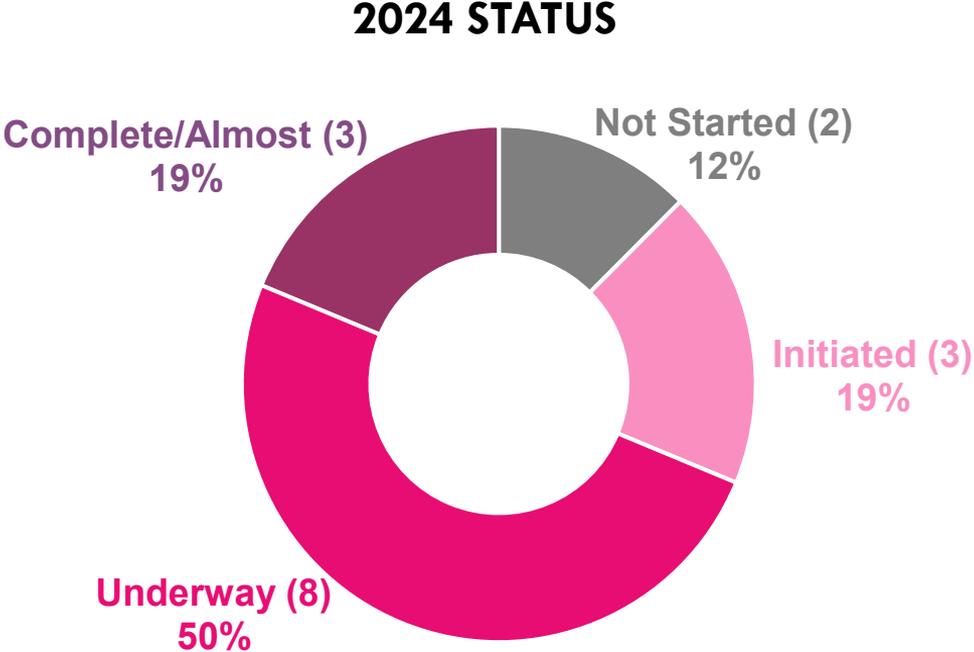


2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - DATA

FRAMEWORK DIRECTION: DELIVER SERVICES EQUITABLY

A fair and effective parks and recreation system

16
INITIATIVES TOTAL



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – SUMMARY

WHAT WORK IS ADVANCING?

80% of foundational, ongoing and short-term initiatives have been completed or are underway

60% of medium-term initiatives completed or underway

Completed a number strategies and plans to set overarching policy, including some revised asset targets

COMPLETED 2020-2024:

- ✓ Sport Field Strategy
- ✓ Community Centre Strategy
- ✓ Washroom Strategy
- ✓ Skateboarding Strategy
- ✓ Interactive Online Map of Equity Init. Zones
- ✓ Van Dusen and Bloedel Plan and JOA
- ✓ HIGH FIVE Guidelines for Healthy Child Development
- ✓ Expand 'All Bodies Community'
- ✓ Local Food Systems Action Plan

2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – SUMMARY

PRE-REQUISITE WORK IS NECESSARY FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Pre-requisite work that underpins multiple initiatives:

- Comprehensive Fee Setting Framework  
 - Recreation fee and charges policy
 - Allocation policies
- Asset Management Level of Service Framework  
 - Capital Planning
 - Service Planning
- Staff training on Truth and Reconciliation 
 - Support UNDRIP / relationships with MST and urban Indigenous.

2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – SUMMARY

EXAMPLES OF WORK NOT ADVANCING AT THE RATE WE HOPED

- Strategies for park and recreation assets (e.g. sport courts, lawn bowling)
- Equitable sport policies
- Service yard plans and needs assessment for Burrard Marina
- Large park master plans

WHY NOT?

- Pandemic disruptions in first 2 years of implementation
- Pressures on capital and operating budgets
- Pressures from Third-party and CoV projects
- Emphasis on implementation and capital delivery

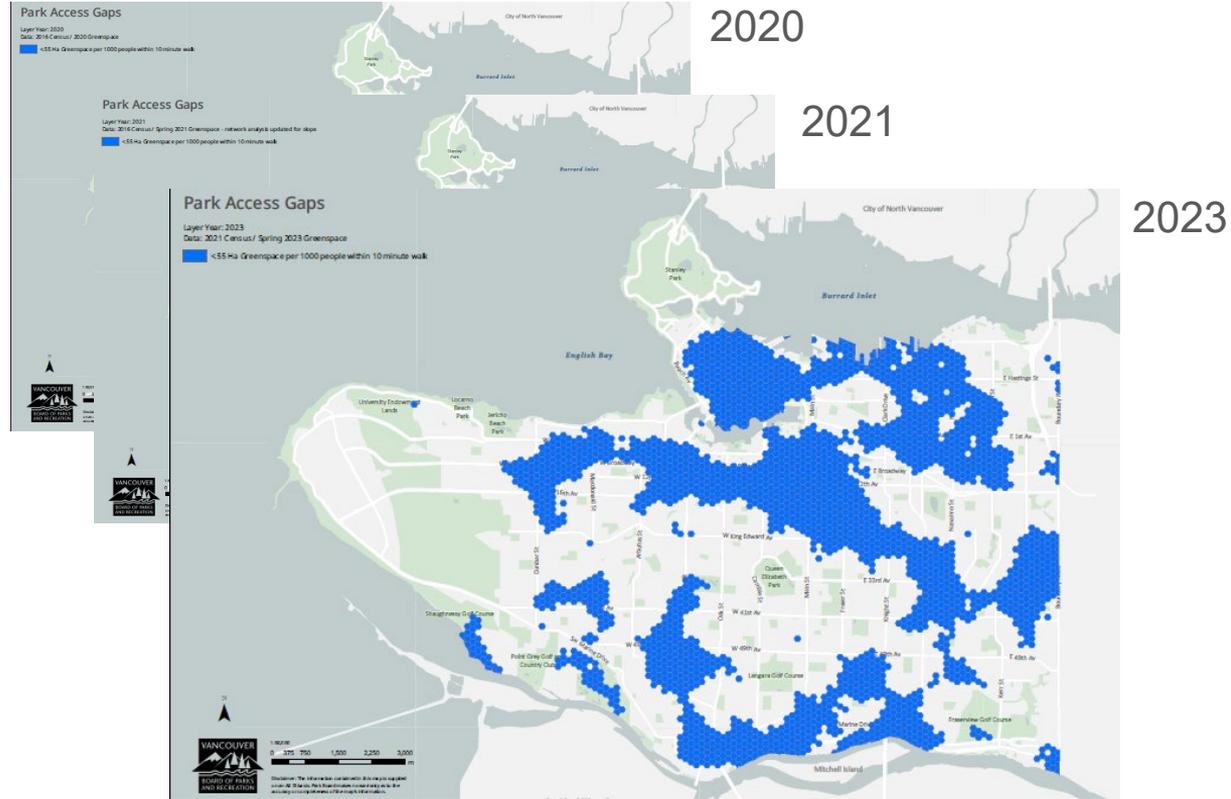
2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – OTHER DATA

Equity Initiative Zones are updated with new data such as:

- Park Access Gaps
- Urban Forest Canopy Coverage

Information used in:

- Capital projects prioritization
- Service level analysis in neighbourhood and citywide planning



Park Access Gaps

2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – OTHER DATA



2

10 GOALS TO SHAPE THE NEXT 30 YEARS

- Goal 1:** **Grow and renew parks, community centres** and other assets, to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs
- Goal 2:** **Protect existing parks and recreation spaces** from loss encroachment and densification
- Goal 3:** **Prioritize the delivery of resources** to where they are needed most
- Goal 4:** **Focus on core responsibilities** of the Park Board, and be a supportive ally to partners
- Goal 5:** **Adapt our parks and recreation** amenities to a changing climate
- Goal 6:** **Create a green network** that will connect our parks, waterfront and recreation areas
- Goal 7:** **Restore Vancouver's wild spaces** and vital biodiversity
- Goal 8:** **Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe** and welcoming to all
- Goal 9:** **Seek truth as a foundation for reconciliation** with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
- Goal 10:** **Secure adequate and ongoing funding** for the repair, renewal and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system

> [2022 Staff Reports](#)

36 Items

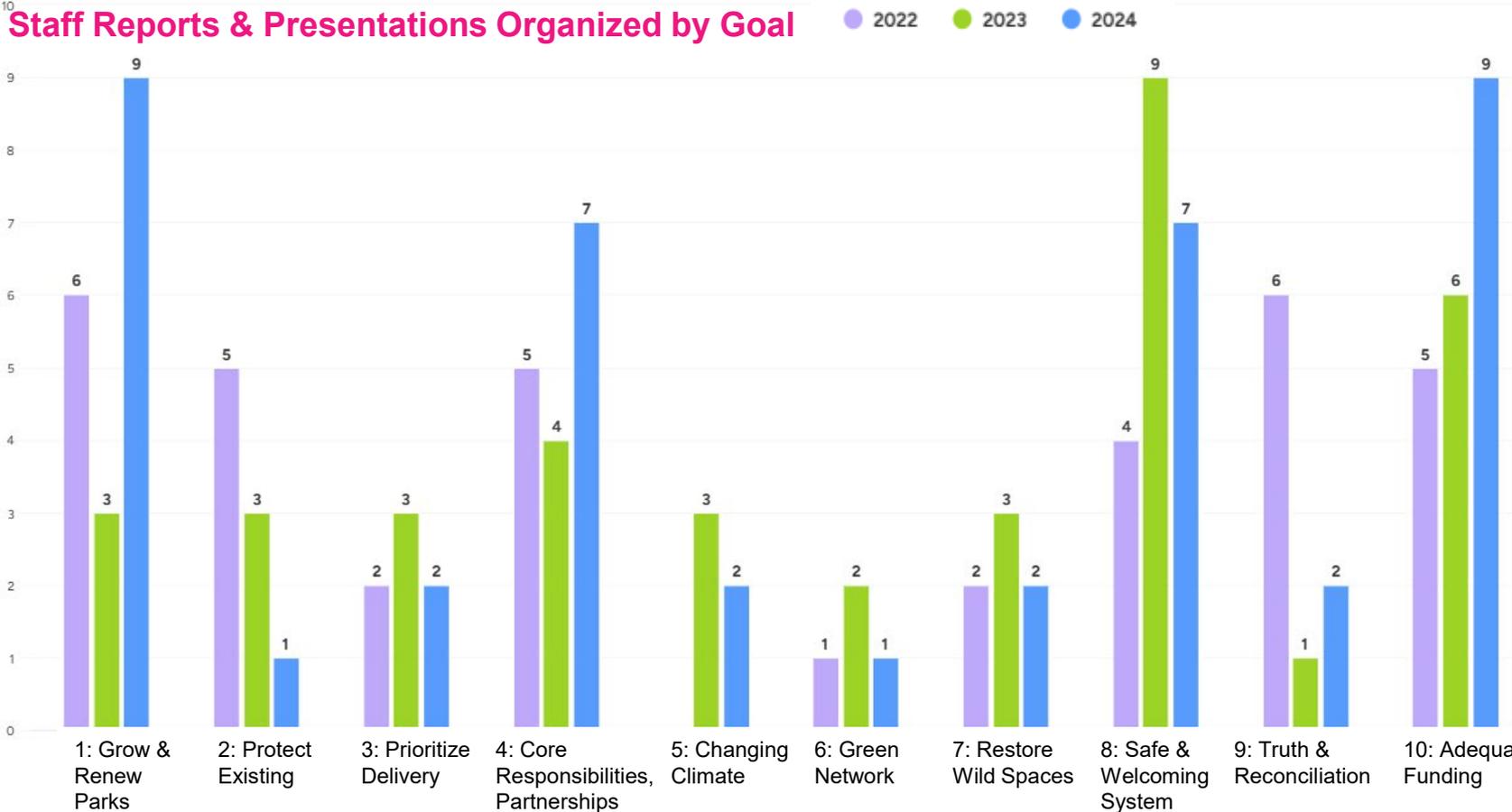
> [2023 Staff Reports](#)

37 Items

> [2024 Staff Reports](#)

42 Items

2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – OTHER DATA





2024 Implementation Update - Highlights

2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

PLANNING & PARK DEVELOPMENT



VanPlay Framework Direction:

IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRACK & FIELD STRATEGY

VanPlay Initiative R.1.2

In 2024, the Park Development team delivered the **Kerrisdale Point Grey Track upgrades** as part of the implementation of the Track and Field Strategy.

Work included administering park design and construction, facilitating agreements with other organizations and working closely with user groups.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

PLANNING & PARK DEVELOPMENT



VanPlay Framework Direction:

WEAVE THE
CITY
TOGETHER

CONNECT & UNCOVER HISTORIC STREAMS

VanPlay Initiative N.2.1

The **Canyon Creek daylighting** in Spanish Banks West Extension Park is in progress and anticipated for completion in 2025.

Restoring Canyon Creek connects habitats from the headwaters in Pacific Spirit and the ocean and offers enhanced experiences in nature for park users.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATIONS



VanPlay Framework Direction:

WEAVE THE
CITY
TOGETHER

INCREASE TREE CANOPY IN EQUITY INITIATIVE ZONES

VanPlay Initiative N.5.2

Work to **increase tree canopy** in VanPlay Equity Initiative Zones have resulted in increases from 8.1% to 10.4% from 2018 to 2022, in areas with 2 and 3 VanPlay EIZ indicators. More planting is planned for the coming years.

ENHANCE THE TREE GUARDIANS PROGRAM

VanPlay Initiative N.5.1

Urban Forestry launched the **Adopt-A-Tree program** in 2024, with 113 participants adopting 135 trees. More events are planned for Spring.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

RECREATION



VanPlay Framework Direction:

EXPAND THE “ALL BODIES COMMUNITY” RECREATION PROGRAM

VanPlay Initiative R.2.2

In 2024 Recreation expanded the **All Bodies Community** recreation program to support culturally-safe activities across the 8 community centres with the greatest needs for low barrier recreation.

All Bodies Community offers recreation and wellness activities including the Indigenous Women Strong pilot program and Hindi and Punjabi-language fitness and wellness programs for seniors.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

RECREATION FACILITIES



VanPlay Framework Direction:

ADVANCE MAJOR RECREATION FACILITY PROJECTS

VanPlay Initiative F.1

In 2024, Recreation and Facilities Planning played leadership role in planning, design and construction of several new and renewed recreation facilities.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT



VanPlay Framework Direction:

WELCOME
EVERYONE

REGULARLY REPORT ON PARK BOARD SUCCESSES & IMPACTS

VanPlay Initiative G.3.1

In 2024, the Park Board's Communications team organized and delivered **15 media events**.

These events use media and digital storytelling to amplify Park Board's capital delivery successes, Think Big milestones, and operational responsibilities to the public and interest-holders.



2024 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HIGHLIGHTS

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS



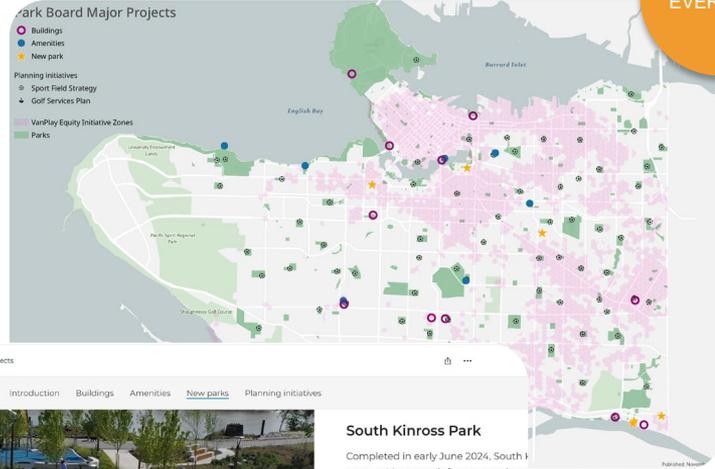
VanPlay Framework Direction:

REGULARLY REPORT ON PARK BOARD SUCCESSES & IMPACTS

VanPlay Initiative G.3.1

Strategic Operations launched the **Major Projects StoryMap** in November 2024, sharing key information on the top 25 projects for 2024 and beyond with a publicly accessible, web-based tool.

The StoryMap highlights projects of significant public interest and has been viewed more than 6500 times since launch.



KEY TAKEAWAYS



We are advancing most of the initiatives that we set out to do in 2019.



The 10 Goals and Equity Initiative Zones are reference points for connecting to VanPlay



VanPlay continues to set the vision, in support of Service Plan and Capital Plan

