



MOTION on NOTICE

Think Inclusivity

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Virdi

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is committed to creating equitable, inclusive, and accessible public spaces for all residents;
2. The renewal of the South Memorial Park Playground presents a timely opportunity to establish a city-leading model of universal and inclusive design; while the Board has already approved the inclusive and accessible playground and design work is underway, this motion reinforces the Board's priorities and provides clear direction to staff as they advance the project's design and implementation;
3. Current playground infrastructure in Vancouver does not fully meet the needs of children with disabilities, children who are neurodiverse, or their families and caregivers, limiting opportunities for social connection and equal participation;
4. Inclusive play elements such as wheelchair-accessible swings, wheelchair-accessible merry-go-rounds, and sensory play equipment are essential to ensuring that children of all abilities can play and grow together;
5. This renewal would introduce Vancouver's first wheelchair-accessible swing, and would establish South Memorial Park Playground as the most accessible, inclusive, and all-abilities park in the city;
6. The Pacific Autism Family Network and the Rick Hansen Foundation are recognized leaders in accessibility and neurodiversity inclusion and can provide critical expertise to guide the design and implementation;
7. Regional examples such as Unwin Park in Surrey and the Whistler Olympic Plaza Playground highlight the success and positive community impact of fully accessible, sensory-rich play spaces developed with input from the Rick Hansen Foundation.
8. Capital investment from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation can be complemented by philanthropic and community contributions if a donation envelope is established for this project; and
9. That this motion be deemed supplementary and is intended to build upon and give further effect to the report dated September 12, 2025, entitled "Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park."



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the renewed playground include, at minimum:
 - i. A wheelchair-accessible swing;
 - ii. A wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round;
 - iii. Comprehensive sensory play features designed for neurodiverse and neurotypical children;
 - iv. Universal accessibility to ensure usability by children, families, and caregivers of all abilities;
 - v. Firm, stable surfacing and universally accessible pathways; and
 - vi. Quiet spaces to support children who need reduced stimulation;
- B. THAT staff consult and collaborate with the Pacific Autism Family Network, Rick Hansen Foundation, and other relevant experts in accessibility and inclusive design to ensure the project meets the highest standards of universal play, and best practices from the [Inclusive Playgrounds Playbook](#); and
- C. THAT a donation envelope be established for this project to enable community partners, philanthropic organizations, and individuals to contribute to the funding of this renewal alongside dedicated capital resources;