



**Think Accessible Play: Advancing Vancouver’s Second Destination Inclusive Sensory and All-Abilities Park with a Communication Board Pilot at Queen Elizabeth Park**

*The below is for information only. Minutes contain the official record of Board decisions.*

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*Final motion as amended*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to undertake planning and feasibility work, within available funding in the approved 2023–2026 Capital Plan, for the development of Vancouver’s second destination sensory all-abilities park at Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. THAT in undertaking this work, staff be directed to consider how the proposed inclusive sensory all-abilities park may complement existing, approved, and emerging destination amenities within Queen Elizabeth Park, including the proposed zipline and tree canopy walk;
- C. THAT staff be directed to identify and evaluate potential locations within Queen Elizabeth Park, giving preference to sites that:
  - i. provide convenient access for children, families, and caregivers of varying mobility levels;
  - ii. are in close proximity to public washroom facilities;
  - iii. are in close proximity to parking, including accessible parking;
  - iv. minimize impacts on significant horticultural, heritage, and viewscape features; and
  - v. can support a destination-quality play experience appropriate to the park’s citywide role, including consideration of nature-based and context-sensitive design approaches aligned with the park’s character;
- D. THAT staff be directed to undertake public and stakeholder engagement to inform both the preferred location and future play features of the proposed sensory all-abilities park, including engagement with families, park users, accessibility advocates, community organizations, and relevant advisory groups;
- E. THAT staff be directed to consider inclusive, destination-quality play features, including but not limited to accessible play components, sensory-rich play experiences, quiet or retreat spaces, accessible surfacing and pathways, inclusive swings, social play elements, and nature-integrated play opportunities appropriate to the Queen Elizabeth Park setting, and to incorporate universal communication access features as part of a pilot approach, including accessible communication boards designed to support non-verbal individuals, educators, multilingual families, and individuals with diverse communication needs; and
- F. THAT staff be directed to explore the implementation of accessible communication boards as a pilot initiative within the proposed park, in consultation with relevant experts and organizations working in this field, to assess best practices for inclusive communication tools in public parks, including but not limited to Picture Assisted Communication (PAC), American Sign Language (ASL) supports, Braille integration,



color-coded learning systems, and interactive communication features designed to foster accessibility and inclusion; and

- G. THAT staff report back to the Board via memo by Q1 2027 on timelines and preliminary concept directions for both communication boards and inclusive play features for the proposed park, including potential approaches to implementing accessible communication boards as a pilot initiative within Queen Elizabeth Park.