



June 12, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **Andy Livingstone Park Playground at Crosstown Elementary School
Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Andy Livingstone Park playground concerns and fencing opportunities.

Background

The Andy Livingstone Park playground, located on the park's east side, was renovated in 2017 alongside Crosstown Elementary School's opening by the Vancouver School Board (VSB). Designed with input from the VSB, the Playground Accessibility Focus Group, and False Creek Residents Association, it supports various ages and abilities, meets safety standards, features imaginative and sensory play, rubber surfacing, shaded seating, preserves trees, and follows Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

To mitigate ongoing social issues in and adjacent to Andy Livingstone Park, staff implemented service enhancements for the park playground and washrooms soon after the school opened. Park Board staff provide enhanced litter picking, garbage and sharps removal, Park Ranger visits, and scheduled park and playground maintenance. Current litter picking, garbage and sharps service levels include one visit per day, typically early in the morning. Current Park Ranger service levels include multiple patrols of Andy Livingstone Park daily, with approximately 2-3 visits during school days. Park rangers ensure that individuals sheltering in the playground and adjacent park areas are packed down and mobile prior to VSB school operations.

The VSB is responsible for providing any additional other services, such as security, playground health and safety checks, and supervision support as required for VSB school operations.

Considering these ongoing concerns, Staff discussed the park and playground issues with VSB staff representatives and are exploring options to expand the playground area and provide perimeter fencing along with opportunities for use agreements:

Playground Expansion: In 2023 Park Board commissioners enquired if the playground area could be enlarged to provide more space for school children to play, and on May 2, 2023 staff confirmed that they had conferred with the City's Engineering Department who support the concept of extending the existing playground fence southwards to the edge of the existing sidewalk along Expo Blvd within the street right of way. This discussion was limited to solutions oriented in expanding the play area, and did not explore fully fencing in the space or the applicability of a fence as a solution to other challenges presented by the school's location. This project was placed in the queue of for future playground renewals when funding is available and will be delivered and funded by Park Board.



Playground Perimeter Fence: One option that has been put forward by the community recently is the installation of a fence around the playground area with gated egress points. This could complement existing measures including daily safety inspections, on-site supervision by VSB school staff, and frequent cleaning. A new fence may better delineate the space for children but will not preclude the need for the existing measures.

Next Steps

Staff will meet with senior VSB representatives to discuss available solutions to improve playground safety. Given the joint use of this space, balancing the objectives of both the Park Board and VSB will be a key consideration. If enclosing the existing playground with a fence is deemed the best solution, staff will continue collaborating with VSB and engage with both elected bodies as required. Additional updates will be shared as more information becomes available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack".

Tiina Mack - MBCSLA
Director, Park Planning and Development – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
City Manager's Office
Ian Stewart – Associate Director, Park Development