



July 10, 2018

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Dave Hutch  
Manager, Planning and Research

SUBJECT : **Arbutus Greenway Design Vision & Implementation Strategy –  
Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

This memo provides an update on the status of the Arbutus Greenway project in advance of the [staff report](#) to City Council on July 11<sup>th</sup> to present the Design Vision and Implementation Strategy.

### **Background**

In 2016, the City purchased the Arbutus Corridor rail line from Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) with the intent of transforming it into a premier greenway for walking, wheeling, cycling, active and passive recreation, and a future streetcar line. Over the last 18 months, the City's Arbutus Greenway Project Team has developed a design vision for the future greenway across eight distinct character zones. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Project Team will present a report to Council accompanied with four recommendations:

- to endorse the Arbutus Greenway Design Vision;
- to endorse the Implementation Strategy;
- to direct staff to prepare recommended amendments to remove lands not required for the greenway; and
- to direct staff to develop a stewardship plan for the greenway's ongoing management and programming.

### **The Arbutus Greenway & Park Interfaces**

The Arbutus Greenway is immediately adjacent to six parks, as listed below and shown in Figure 1, and is in close proximity to several others. These six parks are managed by the Park Board. The Arbutus Greenway has the potential to be highly complementary to these parks as well as creating a green and safe connection on a citywide scale.

- Fir and 6<sup>th</sup> Park
- Delamont Park
- Quilchena Park
- Kerrisdale Park
- Riverview Park
- William Mackie Park



Park Board staff have been working closely with the Arbutus Greenway Project Team to understand existing conditions, opportunities and constraints as well as coordinate future plans for improvements and to develop a set of guiding principles for the integration of the greenway with parks (see page 47 of Appendix B in the [Council Report](#)). A Park Board staff member has been working out of the Arbutus Office one day a week (funded by Engineering) to ensure close collaboration and mutual goals are achieved. Should Council endorse the Arbutus Greenway Design Vision, Park Board staff will continue to work with the Arbutus Greenway Project Team to align the arbutus greenway concepts with ongoing and future plans for improvements carried out by the Park Board's planning and development teams.

Along with the Design Vision, the report identifies short and long term opportunities to extend the greenway to reach False Creek and the Fraser River, and to connect to other key active transportation routes. These directions are supportive of park networking goals identified in the Van Play process. Through further collaboration with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and public/stakeholder engagement, staff are seeking to deliver the priority greenway extensions as part of the first phase of project implementation.

## Implementation

Lastly, the Council Report outlines the proposed implementation strategy for the construction of eight character zones within the purchased corridor over multiple years. In addition to various connectivity and spot improvements on the temporary pathway, the strategy prioritizes the following two character zones for implementation in the first phase (2019-2022):

1. The Lookout (Character Zone 8)
2. The Ridge (Character Zone 3)

Further collaboration is anticipated with Park Board on upcoming planning and design for the Fir Street & West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park. Subject to funding, part of Character Zone 1 (Harvest Table) could come forward in Phase 1 to align with park development.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hutch".

Dave Hutch  
Manager, Planning and Research

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications  
Maggie Buttle, Project Manager, Arbutus Greenway Project Team



Figure 1 – Context Map of Arbutus Greenway & Parks