



March 17, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Childcare in Parks and Community Centres – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide context and information (additional to the March 6, 2023 [staff response](#) to the Board enquiry) on ongoing work that Park Board staff are undertaking in relation to the creation of new childcare spaces.

Context

Park Board staff work with Community Centre Associations (CCAs) and our colleagues at the City (Arts, Culture, and Community Services – ACCS) to balance the integration of childcare programming and facilities with the community's parks and recreation needs.

As referenced in the enquiry response, the [Community Centre Strategy](#) (CCS) (pdf p. 34) recommends using co-location of public services like childcare, as a key prioritization consideration in the community centre planning process. Funding for co-located facilities such as group childcare centres comes from separate sources than parks and recreation facilities. In some cases co-location may create funding efficiencies for recreation facilities; for example, a childcare co-located on top of a community centre would fund a portion of shared assets such as elevators.

There are indoor and outdoor space requirements and configurations for group childcares. The Provincial [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) (enforced by Vancouver Coastal Health) and the [City of Vancouver's Childcare Design Guidelines](#) include programmatic and technical requirements. This includes requirements for the extent to which outdoor spaces must be exclusively used by childcare programs.

Ongoing Initiatives

One of the CCS goals is to “Consider co-location of group childcare and integration of other childcare programs into community centres where feasible, while balancing all parks and recreation needs.” The following references two supporting actions and ongoing related initiatives:

- **Action:** *In order to optimize public land for public use, locate group childcare above grade / on the roof level in new or renewed community centres to provide any required dedicated outdoor space such that it does not reduce public access to park area at grade.* Creekside Community Centre is a built example of this co-located group childcare arrangement. The following are examples of ongoing co-location projects:
 - [Oakridge Community Centre](#) (new facility): the developer is responsible for delivering a community centre with a co-located childcare centre (expected opening 2024)



- [Marpole Community Centre renewal](#): a group childcare facility will be co-located on an upper floor of the renewed centre. (expected opening 2026)
 - [Vancouver Aquatic Centre \(VAC\) renewal: capital funding \(p. 63\)](#) has been allocated to pursue co-location of childcare as part of the new VAC. (Construction estimated to start 2026)
 - [East Fraserlands Community Centre](#) (new facility): the developer is responsible for the delivery of a community centre. The City intends to provide capital funding to co-locate a group childcare on an upper level. (estimated opening 2027/2028)
- **Action:** *Develop policy to address CCA requests for dedicated use of park space to support new at grade group childcare programs in existing community centres for Board consideration.* The development of this draft policy, the Community Centre Childcare Use of Park Space Policy, is nearing completion. This policy development is also supported by the [City's Childcare Strategy](#).

Park Board staff continue to work with community partners to explore opportunities for land-based outdoor childcare programming. This type of childcare contributes to a broader variety of programming for families, can minimize building infrastructure costs and maintains greater levels of public access to parks. Further to the initiatives outlined above, the City's Childcare Strategy identifies ways for City staff to engage with community partners in identifying novel opportunities. This includes exploring the integration of diverse Indigenous perspectives and promotion of more equitable access to nature in childcare programs, which are both well suited to Park Board's broader objectives.

Next Steps

Staff will be bringing the Community Centre Childcare Use of Park Space Policy to the Board for decision in Spring 2023. If this policy is approved, the Kitsilano Community Centre Association is expected to apply under this program immediately following.

Staff will update the Board on other childcare related initiatives when more information is available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnie Rosa".

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

/KY/KA/DS/VT

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
Doug Shearer, Manager Planning; Ian Stewart, Manager Park Development
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