

November 10, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **East Park Engagement Launch – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide project background information for East Park and notification regarding the upcoming public engagement launch.

East Park, a new park proposed as part of the completion of the [Southeast False Creek \(SEFC\) Official Development Plan \(2007\)](#), is initiating Round 1 Public Engagement from November 16 to December 8, 2022. Engagement activities include an online survey hosted on the [Shape Your City](#) platform.

Background

The pre-design phase is currently underway for East Park (working title), a new waterfront park in Olympic Village which includes the renewal of a portion of the seawall south of Science World. East Park will complete a cohesive and connected open space network around False Creek with complementary park programming and amenities. East Park is a complex waterfront project with diverse technical considerations and a wide range of stakeholder interests. The study area invites a comprehensive approach to identifying long-range opportunities for this important site (see Figure 1: East Park Study Area).

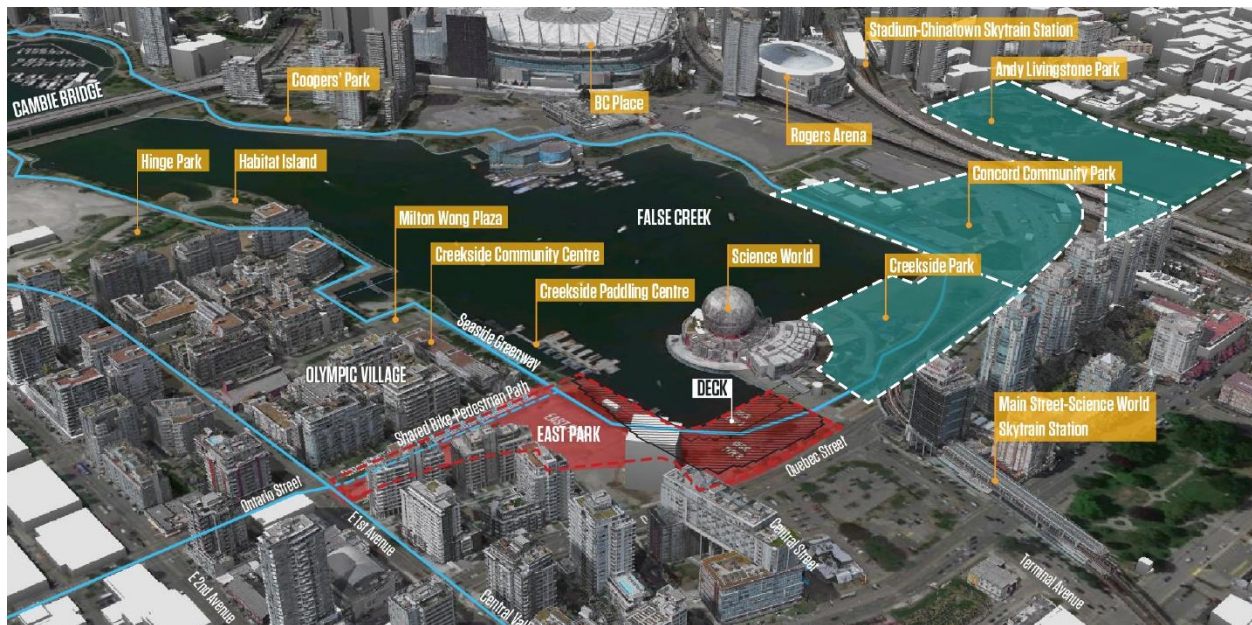


Figure 1: East Park Study Area (shown in red)

Located east of the Olympic Village, East Park is one of three major parks outlined in the SEFC Official Development Plan approved by City Council April 2007 (see Figure 2: Southeast False Creek (SEFC) Conceptual Strategy). Hinge Park was partially completed in 2010 and West Park will be included in the future redevelopment of the West Works yards neighbourhood. Situated between the emerging Railyard neighbourhood and the Olympic Village neighbourhood, East Park will serve as both a waterfront destination as well as a significant neighborhood amenity.

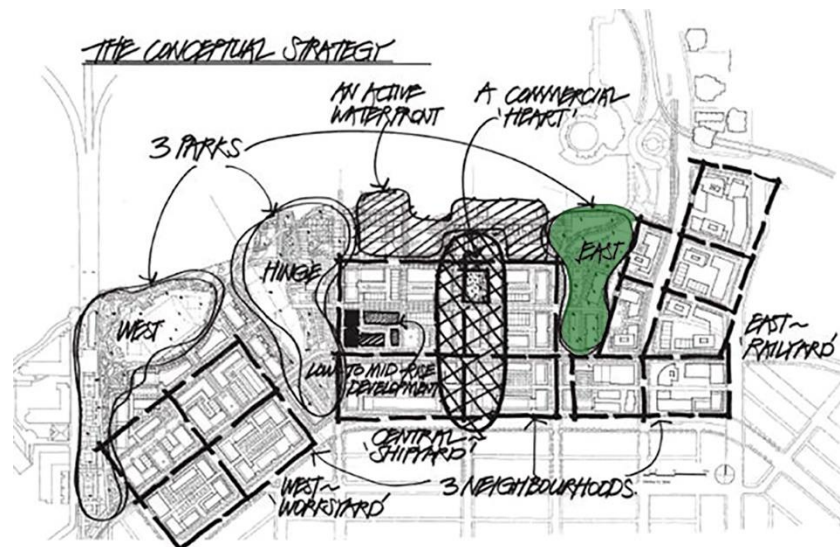


Figure 2: Southeast False Creek (SEFC) Conceptual Strategy

Objectives

The goal of the initial phase of the project (Phase 1, see Figure 3) is to develop a preferred concept plan for Board decision and construction-phasing plan for East Park. The conceptual design process will focus on:

- 1.2 hectares of new parkland east of the Creekside Community Centre, between the Southeast False Creek seawall and East 1st Avenue at Ontario Street, and;
- the renewal of Creekside Park south, built over an aged wooden deck located south of Science World on the Southeast False Creek seawall.

East Park will connect Southeast False Creek and Northeast False Creek, completing a cohesive open space system providing key connections to False Creek, nearby parks, community amenities, and to the existing network of adjacent pedestrian and cycling routes in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The project aims to be centered on Indigenous values, reflect diverse community interests, demonstrate resiliency to a changing climate, increase biodiversity, and support the ecological health of the land and water in False Creek's east basin.

Engagement

A multi-layered engagement process will help shape the park design. The conceptual design work will be guided by the [Southeast False Creek Policy Statement](#) (adopted by City Council October 1999, amended July 2004) and will draw on the [Guiding Principles and Belonging Statement](#) developed through the Northeast False Creek park design engagement process. A [stakeholder](#)

[advisory group](#) has also been assembled to support two-way communication between the project team, key stakeholder communities, and the broader public.

The host First Nations have received the project referral and an invitation to collaborate with project staff on the design of the new park. An Interdepartmental Team was assembled in 2021 to support public engagement through concept design.

Round 1 Public Engagement activities (November 16 to December 8, 2022) include a survey, informational videos, and background materials hosted on [Shape Your City](https://shapeyourcity.ca/east-park), <https://shapeyourcity.ca/east-park>. There will also be on-site signage, a pop-up event, a call-in storyline, and a native plant tour.

Timeline

The anticipated overall project timeline is shown in Figure 3, (approximate and subject to change):

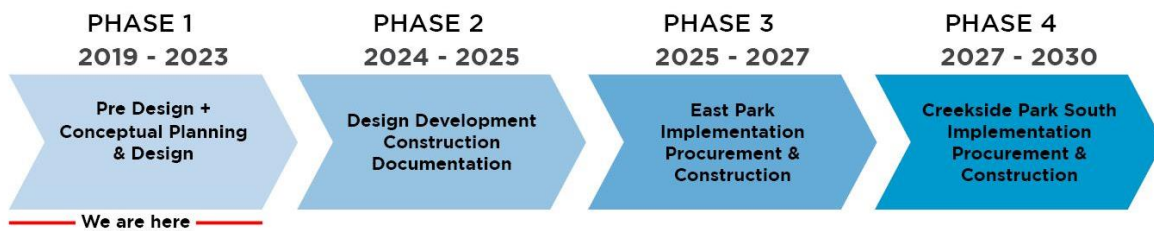


Figure 3: Overall Timeline

Next Steps

Staff will begin developing a preliminary concept plan for Round 2 engagement targeted for Q2 2023, and refining the concept plan for Round 3 engagement in Q4 2023. The preferred concept plan will be brought to the Board for decision in Q1 2024. Park Development staff will provide regular project updates throughout the park design process.

Regards,



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

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Copy to: PB Leadership Team
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