



April 17, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Steve Jackson – Park Board General Manager

SUBJECT : **Washroom Priority Locations & Fieldhouse Strategy Update - Board Briefing Memo**

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## PURPOSE

- Provide an update on parks prioritized to receive new or renovated, washrooms and fieldhouses.
- Outline the updated approach to completing the Fieldhouse Strategy and Management Plan.

## BACKGROUND

### Washroom Priority Locations

The Park Board approved the Parks Washroom Strategy (Washroom Strategy) in November 2020, stating that access to clean, safe and accessible public washrooms is a basic human need and fundamental to an enjoyable, healthy park experience. Public and stakeholder engagement, best practices research and examination of the overall park system informed the development of the Washroom Strategy to guide accessibility, inclusion, safety, cleanliness, and equitable service provision.

Of Vancouver's 250+ parks, 167 do not have washrooms. Of existing park washrooms, the majority are in poor condition. The Washroom Strategy recommends that the Park Board deliver six (6) new washrooms and complete ten (10) washroom renewals per Capital Plan to address this gap. In 2022, City Council approved the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, which included the following funding allocated for new and renovated park buildings (i.e. washrooms and fieldhouses):

- Park Buildings - \$3.3M
- Renovations – Park Building - \$5M

## DISCUSSION

### Updated Prioritization Principles

Based on current cost estimates and the amount of funding allocated to Park Buildings in the Capital Plan, funding is below the level required to deliver the quantity of new and renewed washrooms recommended in the Washroom Strategy. In response, staff refreshed the prioritization principles outlined in the Washroom Strategy to ensure that the available remaining funding in this Capital Plan is directed to washrooms and fieldhouse projects that will have the greatest impact.

For new washrooms, the following prioritization principles were used:

- **Park Classification** – VanPlay, Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets out [park classifications](#) that are intended to support decision-making around the level of investment in each park. Parks classified as Neighbourhood, Community and Destination were prioritized over other park classifications. Parks in these classifications generally have a minimum of 3-7 park amenities



such as playgrounds and sport fields that attract users whose use of parks would be enhanced through provision of a washroom.

- **Higher Density** – Long-term investments in washroom facilities are likely to have the greatest impact in higher-density areas of the city; areas of higher projected density (2050) were prioritized.
- **Washroom Network** – The Park Board is the largest provider of public washrooms in the City of Vancouver. Areas that were not served by existing Park Board washrooms were prioritized.
- **Equity Initiative Zones** – The [‘Park Access’ Equity Initiative Zone](#) described in VanPlay measures acres of park provision for people within a 10 min walk. Areas of the city with higher population or less parkland have limited space available for recreation. It is vital that these hard-working parks offer amenities including washrooms to serve users. Parks within or adjacent to areas where there is less than 0.55 ha of park space per 1,000 residents within a 10 min walk were prioritized.
- **Sport Use** – Washroom provision is key to enabling the use of sport fields for organized sport. Parks with significant existing and future<sup>1</sup> permitted sport use without a washroom were prioritized.

For renewed washrooms, the following prioritization principles were used:

- **Higher Density** – see above description.
- **Building Condition** – Washrooms and fieldhouses in ‘poor’ or worse condition were prioritized.
- **Equity Initiative Zones** – see above description.
- **Accessibility** – Lack of physical accessibility in many older Park Board facilities such as washrooms is a barrier that may prevent some people from using and enjoying parks. Washrooms without an accessible doorway or no accessible stall were prioritized.
- **Amenity Score** – Park amenities such as spray parks, playgrounds, sport fields and community gardens attract users whose experience and length of stay are significantly impacted by the availability of a washroom.

### Updated Priority List

Staff also sought input on a short-list of locations from various teams at the Park Board and City of Vancouver, including Park Development, Park Operations, Park Experience, Decolonization, Arts & Culture (DAC), Recreation and Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management (REFM). The updated list of priority sites for new and renewed washrooms below incorporates feedback from these teams.

### Sites for New Washrooms

- Tisdall Park
- Gaston Park
- General Brock Park
- Burrard Slopes Park

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<sup>1</sup> Future use was determined through alignment with the ongoing Sport Field Strategy development.

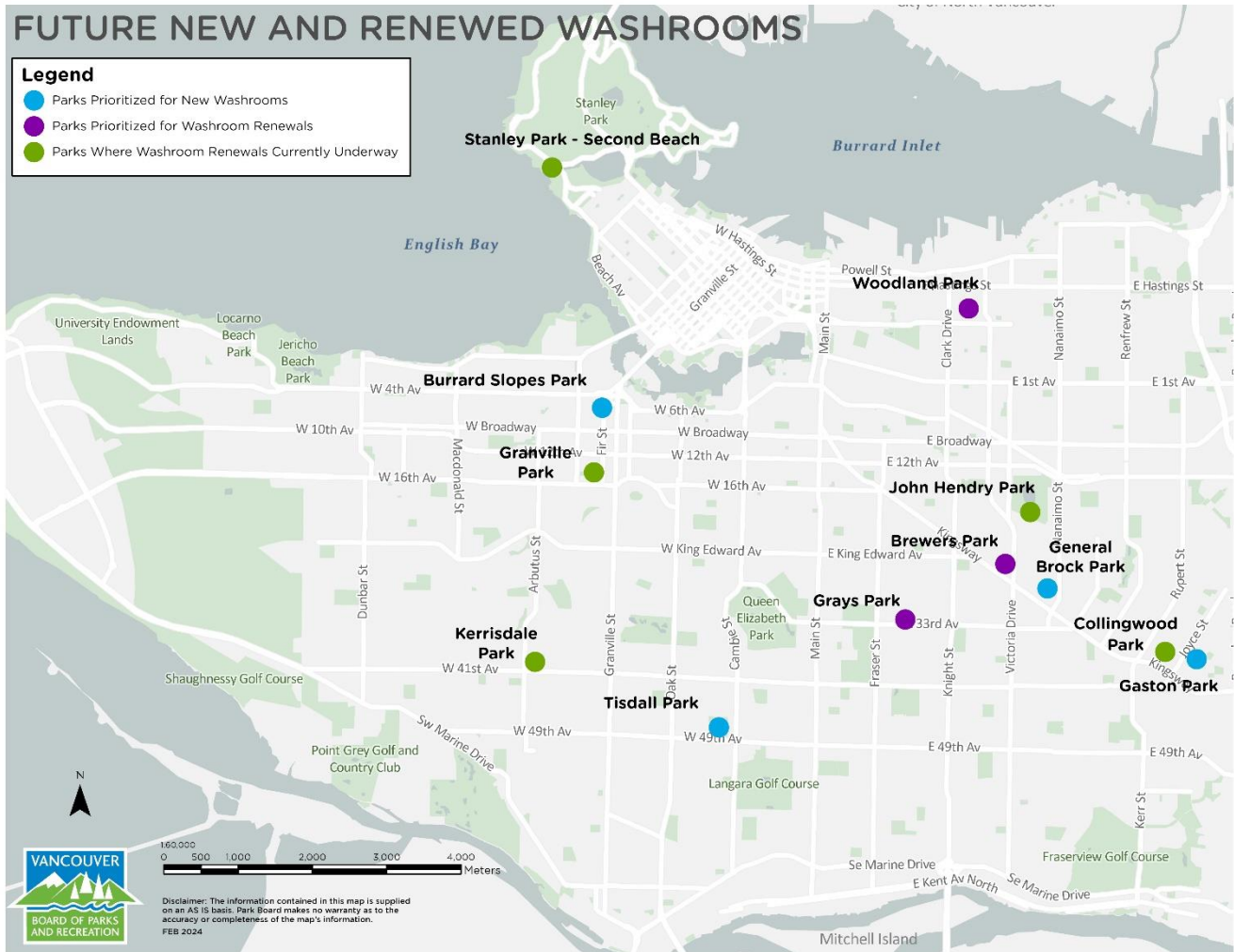


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## Sites for Renewed Washrooms

- Brewers Park
- Grays Park
- Woodland Park

Staff are currently working on washroom and fieldhouse renewals at Second Beach, Granville Park, Kerrisdale Park, John Hendry Park, and Collingwood Park and will begin working on delivering a new washroom at Tisdall Park. Dependent on remaining funding, staff will continue to work through the priority list of washroom locations above. A map of the proposed new, renewal, and currently underway locations is included below.





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### **Fieldhouse Strategy & Management Plan**

To support future washroom delivery, staff began preparing a Fieldhouse Strategy and Management Plan in 2022 to respond to the direction set out in VanPlay Initiative F2.9 (“*Activate and diversify use (e.g. artist’s residences, local food, concessions, community partnerships, events, sport development, staff use) of fieldhouses*”). The intent of the Strategy and Management Plan was to provide direction around the use, renewal, and management of spaces in addition public washrooms in fieldhouses (e.g. changerooms, concessions, storage, caretaker suites, etc.).

There are 69 Park Board public washrooms co-located within park fieldhouses alongside other building components. When renewing washrooms located within fieldhouses, staff must consider the entire building. To streamline renewing washrooms, staff have adjusted their approach and will update the current Washroom Strategy and incorporate the Fieldhouse Strategy and Management Plan content in a single strategy. One policy document for park washrooms and fieldhouses will provide systematic direction for decision making for the renewals and new projects.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Park Board staff and the City of Vancouver’s REFM team will continue work on underway renewals and begin work on a new washroom at Tisdall Park. Staff will update the Washroom Strategy, integrating work to date on the Fieldhouse Strategy and Management Plan, and will bring the final draft Washroom & Fieldhouse Strategy to the Board for decision in 2024.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S Jackson".

Steve Jackson (he/him)  
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Leadership Team  
PB Communications