



**Van
Play**

*Imagine
parks+recreation*

VANCOUVER'S
PARKS & RECREATION
FRAMEWORK



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VanPlay Orientation

VanPlay is the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's decision making guide. Its priorities, tools and policies support the pursuit of equity, connectivity and access to parks and recreation for all.

REPORT 1: Inventory and Analysis

- A thorough introduction to the Park Board system broken into four chapters - parks, recreation facilities and nature.
- The inventory includes maps, challenges/opportunities, history and other useful introductory information.

REPORT 2: 10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years

- Intended to be bold and aspirational, these goals are broad outcomes which where can make parks and recreation more equitable, accessible, inclusive and resilient over the next 25 years.
- Each goal is supported by a "why" statement which are a short summary of the current state and opportunities for the future.

REPORT 3: Strategic Bold Moves

- In depth information about the three tools to create a more connected and equitable future:

Move 1: EQUITY | Tool: INITIATIVE ZONES

This Bold Move pursues a more equitable distribution of parks and recreation opportunities. The Initiative Zones map assists in prioritizing delivery of park and recreation resources to historically under-served areas of the city.

Move 2: ASSET NEEDS | Tool: ASSET TARGETS

This Bold Move articulates needs relating to physical assets and sets targets by which to track progress over time.

Move 3: CONNECTIVITY | Tool: CITYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION NETWORK

This Bold Move presents a vision for a network of parks, green spaces and recreation areas, interwoven into everyday life.

REPORT 4: The Playbook, Implementation Plan

- The plan for implementation into the day-to-day of the Park Board, over the next 10 years.

What is this document?

VanPlay, The Framework (this document) is a succinct method of referencing the full suite of VanPlay documents and is a decision-making tool for implementation.

By bringing together all components of VanPlay in one place, The Framework streamlines the alignment of decisions with VanPlay policies, tools and implementation priorities. It allows for quick and easy reference the core content of the VanPlay documents.

The Framework shall be cited when referencing VanPlay in reports to the Board, during work planning, prioritization, and when describing the key tenants of VanPlay, and the ethos behind the Park Board's work, both internally and externally.



The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

VISION

To be the leader in parks and recreation
by connecting people to green space,
active living and community

MISSION

Provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation to benefit all people, communities and the environment.

Purpose Statement

All people and communities in Vancouver, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion, race, financial status, sexual orientation, abilities or age deserve the right to access quality parks, recreation and nature, and the opportunity to partake in social, cultural and recreational activities to acquire physical literacy skills, to express and enjoy culture, and to connect with community.



10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years

Each Goal is supported by an explanation of work currently underway, trends and issues of note which describe “why” these are so important to take on, or continue to take on. See “10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years” full report for more.

- Goal 1:** Grow and Renew Parks, Community centres and other assets, to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs
- Goal 2:** Protect Existing parks and recreation spaces from loss encroachment and densification
- Goal 3:** Prioritize the delivery of resources to where they are needed most
- Goal 4:** Focus on core responsibilities of the Park Board, and be a supportive ally to partners
- Goal 5:** Adapt our parks and recreation amenities to a changing climate
- Goal 6:** Create a Green network that will connect our parks, waterfront and recreation areas
- Goal 7:** Restore Vancouver’s wild spaces and vital biodiversity
- Goal 8:** Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all
- Goal 9:** Seek Truth as a foundation for reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
- Goal 10:** Secure adequate and ongoing funding for the repair, renewal and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system

The VanPlay Framework

Three Key Directions



This framework provides a quick reference point for aligning activities and operations undertaken by the Park Board, with VanPlay.

The Directions reflect the ambitions of the 10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years, and link the Goals to the Strategic Bold Moves, the associated tools, and the Approaches for Action (from The Playbook).

All reports, proposals and activities should identify how it relates to the Directions, and the Bold Moves or Approaches for Action shown here.

For example; “The project aligns with VanPlay’s direction “Deliver Services Equitably” by using the Equity Initiative Zones to prioritise resources and service delivery.”





Deliver Services Equitably

A fair and effective parks and recreation system

Bold Move: Equity

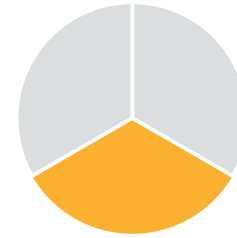
- Use the Equity Initiative Zones map to prioritize resources and service delivery
- Work inclusively to address inequities
- Identify and challenge colonial structures
- Nurture partnerships where values of access, inclusion and equity are shared

Approaches for Action:

- Articulate principles, values, and approaches by developing a robust policy framework (G.1.)
- Support evidence-based decision making by collecting and managing data and information. (G.2.)
- Focus reconciliation efforts on decolonizing the Park Board and relationship building with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. (G.6)
- Strengthen and expand partnerships to build capacity and clarify roles. (G.7)



The VanPlay Framework



Welcome Everyone

Parks and recreation experiences that improve quality of life.

Bold Move: Equity

- Meet the Asset Targets by increasing the capacity and quantity of space, amenities and facilities
- Provide safe, clean and welcoming parks and recreation spaces.
- Reduce barriers to access
- Listen, learn and co-create to understand and meet community needs

Approaches for Action:

- Improve the safety, cleanliness and physical accessibility of all parks to increase access for all. (P.1)
- Provide excellent customer service by enhancing communication with the community, our partners and stakeholders. (G.3)
- Conduct meaningful, wide reaching and effective community engagement through innovative opportunities and methods. (G.5)
- Foster an ethos of stewardship and community development which engages people, community groups and organizations in caring for and about parks and recreation. (G.9)
- Respond to challenges and future trends through proactive park design, operations and maintenance practices. (P.4)
- Provide a wide variety of park types, spaces and experiences that reflect the communities they serve. (P.5)
- Increase the capacity, quality and diversity of recreation amenities through strategic management and investment. (R.1)
- Support a lifelong pursuit of sport and recreation for all ages and abilities. (R.2)
- Support access to sustainable, local and healthy food. (R.3)
- Expand access to recreation facilities to keep up with population growth and changing needs. (F.1)
- Enhance existing facilities to create welcoming spaces and amenities which appeal to a wide range of recreational interests and are accessible to all. (F.2)





Weave the City Together

Parks, nature, recreation and culture integrated into everyday life.

Bold Move: Connectivity

- Provide routes to walk or roll to, and through, parks and recreation places
- Thread the unique history of the land, place, and culture into planning, design and activities
- Provide amenities and places which are flexible to different uses and deliver multiple functions
- Reconnect landscapes by improving the flow and quality of rainwater
- Connect and enrich ecosystems throughout the city

Approaches for Action:

- Enhance nodes and multi-modal connections to create a citywide network of parks and recreation. (P.2)
- Protect and acquire park land to provide access to space for sport, recreation, culture and nature throughout the city. (P.3)
- Advocate for the protection and enhancement of parks, recreation, and nature throughout the city as elemental parts of complete communities. (G.4)
- Support diverse cultural visibility through arts, culture and storytelling. (G.8)
- Protect and enhance the integrity of foreshores, waterways and beaches. (N.1)
- Protect Vancouver's freshwater resources through ecological restoration, green infrastructure, and water conservation. (N.2)
- Nurture, protect, and connect the city's ecological network and natural areas. (N.3)
- Cultivate connection to nature through education, programming and stewardship. (N.4)
- Grow and improve the health of Vancouver's urban forest. (N.5)



The VanPlay Diagnostic Tests

These tests help to assess if the proposed project or work aligns with the Park Boards values, intentions and therefore will further our goals as an organisation.

Decolonisation Interrogation Questions

Regularly, and in as many different situations as possible, reflect on these questions. By practicing this reflection you will find that patterns of decision making, power dynamics and other patterns will become clear. The intention is not to actively solve or analyze the answers to these questions as a part of the reflection but rather to simply acknowledge. Action in response to observations can be incorporated in all work and activities undertaken by staff and the Board.

This reflection work furthers the VanPlay goal to “seek truth”, aligns with the direction to “Delivery Services Equitably, by identifying and challenging colonial structures” and provides substance to the Colonial Audit (underway).

Questions for Decolonial Interrogation

1. What issues have arisen in the past week?
2. What decisions were made?
3. Who made them?
4. Who provided the information that informed that decision?
5. Where are the pressures come from?

Learning

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.

(Reference: Mission, Vision, Values of Park Board Reconciliation)

The VanPlay Test

Use these questions to shape a project, effort, initiative or undertaking. Not all questions will be relevant for all scales of projects, however each should be considered thoughtfully.

The VanPlay Test

1. Does this align with the VanPlay Framework?
2. Does this advance the VanPlay goals?
3. Does this increase the capacity or quantity of assets, amenities or facilities to help meet 2040 Asset Targets?
 - a. If it is a strategy: does it outline steps to deliver on an asset target? If the subject does not have an asset target, can this strategy create new asset target/s?
4. Is this located in (or does it serve) an Initiative Zone?
5. Does this comprehensively consider equity and increasing equitable provision of services into the future?
6. How does this enhance connectivity? Consider;
 - a. Flow of waters
 - b. Ecosystem connectivity
 - c. Vibrant, active communities
 - d. Sense of place
 - e. Creating opportunities for collaboration
7. Does this take a “multiple benefits approach”?
8. Could an outcome or an output be a:
 - a. Policy or guideline, which articulates how decisions consistent with this work could be made into the future?
 - b. Communication tool, which will make sharing information on this topic easier?, and/or
 - c. Data set or map, either new or an update to existing information?
9. Is this something we said we would do? For example;
 - a. Action to implement a Bold Move, and/or
 - b. Initiative listed in the Playbook

Definitions

Strategy

A strategy presents a long-term vision for the future. Creating a strategy typically involves analysis, including an audit of the current state, a needs assessment, and a gap analysis. Building from this, a vision for the future is co-created with the community. Strategies define principles that guide decision-making and lead to implementation.

Plan

A plan enacts strategies by outlining tasks required for implementation that are time and resource bound.

Policy

A policy outlines intent, principles and guidelines to direct responses to particular proposals, situations or activities. Typically a short (fewer than 4 pages if possible) document it should outline key criteria regarding how and why certain decisions are made or actions are taken. Policies can be internal, guiding the Park Boards' work, or external, directing others who interface with the Park

Board. Policies are a useful tool for documenting values and objectives in a transparent way. By creating policy we ensure decisions in the future will be consistent with decisions made today. A values-led policy may help avoid duplication of effort where an issue comes up regularly. With a policy in place a new response does not need to be created each time the issue or opportunity arises. It is helpful if any deep investigation into a topic produces a policy statement either as a standalone document or as a part of a larger strategy document. Policies can be supported by Guidelines.

Guideline

a document which outlines specifically how processes are undertaken, actions are taken or decisions are made. They are more comprehensive than policy and are more functional in their focus. By creating guidelines we ensure that important tasks and processes are undertaken consistently and effectively. Good guidelines can help ensure important tasks, check points or consultations are not missed.

Communication tool

anything which clearly describes an issue, topic or decision. Communication tools can be public facing or act as a guide for staff when communicating with the public. Tools could include web pages, information sheets, videos, infographics, webinar recordings, posters, training manuals etc.

Initiative Zone

The Initiative Zones tool is a tool to help determine project prioritization and location. The map combines a measure of access to parks, recreation and nature in order to create a powerful story that sets the scene for great conversations about where resources may be required. More information can be found in the 'Equity' chapter of "Strategic Bold Moves".

Asset Targets

VanPlay's Asset Targets consider the quantity, quality, capacity, and distribution of parks, natural areas, outdoor recreation amenities, and facilities

in the City of Vancouver, managed in some respect by the Park Board. Each asset target recommends actions for to supply, distribution, and renewal of each type. More information can be found in the 'Asset Needs' chapter of "Strategic Bold Moves".

Naturally managed

Areas of parks that are intentionally minimally managed, relatively undisturbed in an urban context, contain native plant species, and provide wildlife habitat. In Vancouver's park system these include forests, ponds, wetlands, stream riparian zones, some sections of coast, meadows, treed areas without mown understory, and un-manicured sections of golf courses.

Multiple-benefits Approach

An approach for design and strategy which attempts to achieve multiple objectives, and perform multiple functions, through one initiative. This approach makes the most efficient use of public land, and funds while building strong relationships. VanPlay proposes a "multiple-benefit approach" to create a citywide network of parks and recreation experiences. More information can be found in the "Connectivity" chapter of "Strategic Bold Moves".

