

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and
Port Metro Vancouver

New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Conceptual Design Public Consultation
August 26 – September 9, 2015

Discussion Paper and Feedback Form



View of New Brighton Park facing west



1.0 Learn More And Provide Feedback

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide information about the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project. It is designed to gather feedback from communities, stakeholders and the public, and includes a feedback form with questions related to New Brighton Park usage and ecological features of the proposed project.

The Engagement Program Includes:

- Discussion Paper and Feedback Form
- Online Feedback Form
- An Engagement Event in New Brighton Park (see below for details)

How to Participate

Attend the Engagement Event

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2015

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: New Brighton Park, north of the swimming pool

Read the Discussion Paper and Submit your Feedback Form

Online at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh

At the engagement event at New Brighton Park

Provide a Written Submission

By email: newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca

By mail: Attn: New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project
Port Metro Vancouver, 100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place,
Vancouver B.C. Canada V6C 3T4

Call for Information

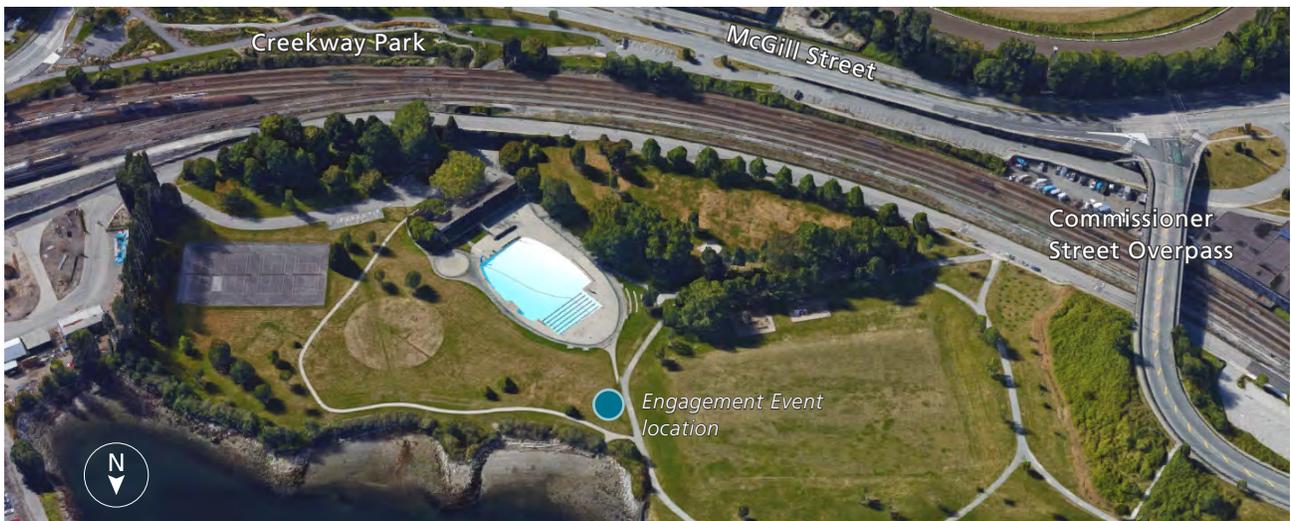
Phone: 604.665.9071

Participate in Fall 2015 Public Consultation

Check back at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh for updates on opportunities to provide feedback

Please email newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca for additional information.

Figure 1: View of New Brighton Park



2.0 Project Overview

Port Metro Vancouver is working with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to enhance biodiversity and restore fish, songbird and wildlife habitat in New Brighton Park. The proposed Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project is situated in New Brighton Park along the south side of Burrard Inlet, west of the Second Narrows Bridge. If approved, the project will result in the restoration and enhancement of approximately 2.5 hectares of intertidal, instream and riparian habitat. The proposed project area is on the east side of the park, and consists of a grassy area currently used for recreation.

Consistent with the City of Vancouver's 2010 Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan and Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program objectives, the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project would involve the creation of a salt marsh to enhance biodiversity and increase wildlife viewing opportunities. This would support the restoration of Renfrew Creek as part of the revitalization of Hastings Park.

3.0 Background

The Hastings Park Master Plan

A major component of the Hastings Park Master Plan – approved by Vancouver City Council in 2010 – is the daylighting¹ of historic Renfrew Creek between the Sanctuary Pond and Burrard Inlet. In 2013, a portion of the stream was daylighted just south of New Brighton Park at Creekway Park. The proposed salt marsh project was included in the Master Plan and is expected to tie into Creekway Park, completing a vital piece in the overall vision for the stream.

The Habitat Enhancement Program

The Habitat Enhancement Program is a Port Metro Vancouver initiative focused on creating and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. This program is a proactive measure intended to provide a balance between a healthy environment and future development projects that may be required for port operations.

4.0 Site History

Historical uses of the proposed project site, prior to its development into a municipal park, were primarily for lumber-related industries, particularly shingle manufacturing. A review of aerial photos indicates that the current shoreline visible today was created through fill placement in the 1960s, which resulted in the loss of valuable fish and wildlife habitat.



New Brighton Park in 1961, before land filling created the current shoreline. Note that the outdoor pool used to be located next to the shore.

Source: Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

¹Daylighting can include the redirection of a stream into an above-ground channel, restoring it to a more natural state.

5.0 The Proposed Project

The proposed project is currently in the conceptual design stage. It is anticipated that the project could include:

- The creation of a **tidal wetland area with a salt marsh component**
 - This supports critical fish and wildlife functions, nutrient recycling, and assists in the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- The construction of subtidal **rocky reefs**
 - These function as a hard surface on which a variety of macroalgae grow, including bull and sugar kelp, which provide nutrients for the marine environment; they provide refuge and food for fish and invertebrates; and they support the spawn of fish species such as herring.
- The enhancement of **backshore/riparian habitat**
 - Backshore habitat is the upper shore zone, located between marine habitats (i.e., salt marsh) and terrestrial habitats (i.e., upland).
 - Riparian habitat is the interface between other aquatic habitats (e.g., rivers or streams) and terrestrial habitats (i.e., upland).
- The creation of **streamside habitat** at the southern end of the park, connecting to Creekway Park.

The design may also include park features to maintain access to the shoreline and improve environmental education opportunities.

6.0 Rationale for the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

New Brighton Park was selected for its potential to benefit a broad range of fish, birds and wildlife species and increase the overall ecological health of the area. The creation of a tidal wetland feature would also improve habitat in the Burrard Inlet for juvenile salmon rearing. The inclusion of rocky reefs for the establishment of bull kelp would support seaweed and rockfish and increase marine productivity in the area. This would also soften the shoreline, making it more valuable for migrating juvenile salmon.

Figure 2: Illustrative Concept: Low Tide



Illustrative Concept: Low Tide

Figure 3: Illustrative Concept: High Tide



Illustrative Concept: High Tide

7.0 Ecological Features

The creation of a tidal wetland area with a salt marsh component at the proposed site will provide ecological benefits through the enhancement of existing wildlife values. Salt marshes support diverse species, and the terrestrial areas surrounding marshes also provide high value habitat for other wildlife, including birds and bats.

Salt Marsh Features

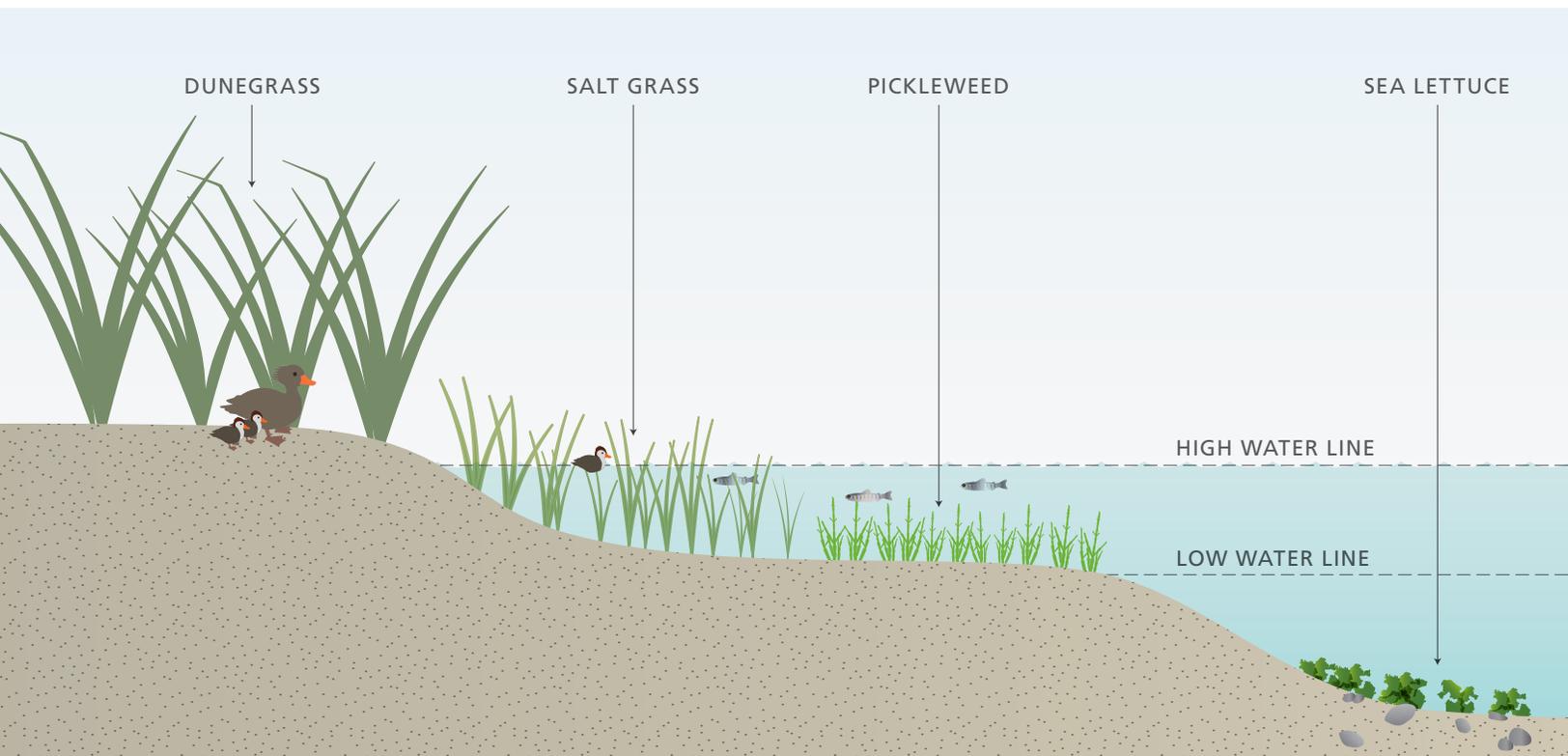
Salt marshes contain plants, including pickleweed and saltgrass, can grow in the intertidal zone in high salinity environments. As some of the most productive habitats on earth, salt marshes provide an important source of primary production, nutrients and organic matter supporting a food web used by diverse marine and terrestrial species. Salt marshes and other coastal wetlands are essential for juvenile salmon as they migrate from rivers and streams.

Wildlife Features

Wildlife, including birds and bats, is important for maintaining diverse and healthy ecosystems. In urban settings, a shortfall of trees limits the nesting and habitat opportunities for wildlife, which can negatively impact a range of different bird species and bat populations.

Port Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are considering opportunities to incorporate bird nesting structures and bat roosting boxes that could be established within or adjacent to the new salt marsh habitat.

Figure 4: Example Cross-section of a Constructed Salt Marsh



8.0 Potential Access and Recreational Features

The Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project will provide new opportunities for park users to experience nature within New Brighton Park. Providing access to the new shoreline for park users will be an important part of the project. This may include new trails around the perimeter, viewing areas, or other access features. Access will need to be balanced with protecting the restored habitat from overuse. Opportunities for access include:

- A gravel path with viewing opportunities
- A bird blind to observe wildlife
 - A bird blind is a shelter, often camouflaged, that is used by bird watchers, and other observers who do not want to disturb wildlife as they observe.
- Raised viewing area(s) overlooking the salt marsh and Burrard Inlet
- A loop trail around the salt marsh/wetland feature

The existing tennis court on the east side of New Brighton Park is in poor condition and would be removed as part of the salt marsh project; other tennis courts in the Hastings/Burrardview area provide access for the community. Improvements to existing tennis facilities in the surrounding neighbourhood may be undertaken based on community interest and a city-wide review of recreation facilities in 2016.

9.0 Potential Educational Features

As part of the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Port Metro Vancouver are seeking opportunities, such as the installation of interpretive signage, to support education about the historical, cultural and ecological values of Burrard Inlet.

10.0 Potential Dog Off-Leash Changes

The proposed Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project would affect the existing dog off-leash area in New Brighton Park. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recognizes the importance of dog use in the park and is providing redesign options that ensure the needs of dog owners and their dogs are included. Options being considered are the creation of an additional dog off-leash area in the western portion of the park, providing year-round off-leash access to the beach and water (only seasonal access is available now), and/or improving the quality of the remaining dog off-leash area (better drainage, access to drinking water, obstacle course features, etc.).

Your feedback is important for understanding how best to maintain New Brighton Park as a destination for the dog community. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is also starting a city-wide review of dog off-leash areas and policies in fall 2015 and New Brighton Park is an opportunity to test potential improvements to park facilities for dog use.

11.0 Feedback Questions

Please provide your feedback by September 9, 2015

1. To improve access to nature, what types of features would you most like to see in and around the new salt marsh in New Brighton Park? Rank the following features from 1 to 4, with 1 being most preferred and 4 being least preferred.

Rank (1 – 4)

- Gravel path with viewing opportunities
- Bird blind to observe wildlife
- Raised viewing area(s) overlooking the salt marsh and Burrard Inlet
- Loop trail around the salt marsh/habitat

Are there any other features you would like to see at New Brighton Park to improve access to nature?

Information on Access and Recreational Features can be found on page 6 of this discussion paper.

2. How much do you agree or disagree with introducing new measures to:

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Improve song bird habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve bat habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Information on Ecological Features can be found on page 5 of this discussion paper.

3. How much do you agree or disagree with establishing new educational features at New Brighton Park (e.g. interpretive signage on the topics of cultural, historical, and ecological features and benefits of biodiversity and habitat restoration)?

Strongly Agree

Somewhat Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Somewhat Disagree

Strongly Disagree

If you have any additional ideas for potential new educational features at New Brighton Park, please specify those here:

Information on Educational Features can be found on page 6 of this discussion paper.

4. Which improvements to a dog off-leash area in New Brighton Park do you support? Please select all that apply.

- Year-round access to the water at New Brighton Park Beach
- Access to drinking water for dogs
- Benches or other seating areas
- Obstacles or other structures for dogs to use
- Perimeter fencing to reduce conflict with other park users
- Improved drainage for year-round use
- Additional off-leash area in the western side of the park
- None of the above
- Other, please specify:

Information on Potential Dog Off-Leash Changes can be found on page 6 of this discussion paper.

5. Which of the following most closely describes your usage of New Brighton Park?

- Once per day
- 1 – 2 times per week
- 1 – 2 times per month
- Less than once per month

6. How do you access New Brighton Park? Please select all that apply.

- Car
- Bike
- Walking
- Public Transit
- Other, please specify:

7. What time of year do you visit New Brighton Park? Please select all that apply.

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

**8. Which park facilities do you use when you visit New Brighton Park?
Please select all that apply.**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog off-leash area | <input type="checkbox"/> Concession | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline pier | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |

12.0 Additional Comments

9. Please provide any additional ideas, interests or comments you have in regards to the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project.

Feedback

The following questions help us to determine how the feedback we receive represents the community. Individual responses are treated as anonymous and demographic information is always kept separate from personal identifiers.

1. What is your home postal code?

2. Which of the following age groups do you belong to? Please select one.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 or under | <input type="checkbox"/> | 50 – 59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 – 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 60 – 69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 – 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 70 – 79 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 – 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 80 + |

3. Do you identify as:
Please select one.

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- None of the above. Identify as:

- Prefer not to answer

Demographics

How Input Will Be Used

Your input during this consultation will be considered carefully, along with technical and economic information, and information provided by Aboriginal groups and relevant regulatory agencies through further project design and development. After the public engagement process is completed in the fall of 2015, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation will have the opportunity to provide final approval for the project design and, along with Port Metro Vancouver, will determine how to advance the project.

Receive Project Updates

To receive email updates about this project and Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program. Please provide your contact information (optional):

Name:

Mailing Address:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Email:

Personal information collected relates directly to the engagement process and will not be shared for any other purpose. If you have questions about the engagement process or the information collected, please contact Port Metro Vancouver by telephone at 604.665.9071 or by email to habitat.enhancement@portmetrovancover.com.

Please return your feedback form by September 9, 2015.

Online: vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh

Email: newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca

Mail: Attn: New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project,
Port Metro Vancouver, 100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place,
Vancouver B.C. Canada V6C 3T4