

Port Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Preliminary Design Public Consultation, November 2 –16, 2015

Discussion Paper and Feedback Form



View of New Brighton Park facing west



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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 about preliminary design options for the proposed project.

The Engagement Program Includes:

- Discussion Paper and Feedback Form
- Online Feedback Form
- Two Public Information Sessions

How to Participate

Attend a Public Information Session	Date	Tuesday, November 3, 2015	Saturday, November 7, 2015
	Time	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
	Location	Hastings Room, PNE (2901 E. Hastings Street) <i>Enter Gate 2 (Renfrew Street), walk east past the Forum. The Hastings Room will be on the right.</i>	New Brighton Park <i>Biologist-led tours of the proposed project site at 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM.</i>
Read the Discussion Paper and Submit Your Feedback Form	Online at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh At a Public Information Session (see above)		
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		

Please email newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca for additional information.

Engagement Process – What We’ve Heard So Far

There were 285 participant interactions during Conceptual Design Public Consultation (August 26 to September 9, 2015). Participants expressed support for, and interest in, the project, particularly related to recreational access, wildlife, and educational features. Many participants indicated the importance of the dog off-leash area, and of keeping dogs separate from the habitat. Input from Conceptual Design Public Consultation has been considered in design refinements included in this discussion paper. The Consultation Summary Report is available at: vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.

Check the project page at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh for additional information about the process and past updates.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

Port Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are working together to explore the restoration of habitat in New Brighton Park in Vancouver. Consistent with the City of Vancouver's 2010 Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan and Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program objectives, the goal of the proposed project is to restore habitat for Burrard Inlet's fish and wildlife, and increase public access to nature. If approved, the project will result in the restoration and enhancement of approximately 2.5 hectares of intertidal, instream and riparian habitat.

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.

Existing park plans support salt marsh creation. The 1997 Master Plan and the 2011 Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan proposed the creation of a salt marsh at the outlet of a restored stream flowing from Hastings Park. For more information on the City of Vancouver's 2010 Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan, please see vancouver.ca/home-property-development/hastings-park-pne-master-plan.aspx.

The project team is considering opportunities for environmental education and interpretation. These opportunities will be explored further during the detailed design phase.

For more information on Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program, please see www.portmetrovancover.com/habitatenhancement.

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT COMPONENTS

The New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project could include:

The creation of a **tidal wetland area with a salt marsh component**:

- Tidal marshes provide critical habitat for juvenile salmon that migrate along shorelines as they head out to sea. They are also used by shorebirds as resting and feeding areas. Many tidal wetlands were lost during early development of Burrard Inlet.
- Tidal wetlands also support the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by trapping organic materials.

The creation of **subtidal rocky reefs**:

- Macroalgae, including bull and sugar kelp, can grow on rocky reefs, provide nutrients and refuge for a wide range of marine organisms, including fish, and 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.

The creation of **stream habitat** at the southern end of the park, connecting to Creekway and Hastings parks.

The use of **strategic planting or fencing** in backshore planting areas:

- Strategic planting or fencing will ensure that people and dogs do not disturb sensitive restored habitat.

The incorporation of **bat roosting and bird nesting features** (including a raptor nesting feature for bald eagles or osprey):

- Bat roosting and bird nesting features help a diverse range of species to compensate for a shortfall of habitat opportunities in urban areas.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN OPTIONS – CONSULTATION TOPIC

In the following pages, this discussion paper presents:

- Two preliminary design options for the **proposed habitat restoration project**; and
- Two preliminary design options for the **proposed changes to the dog off-leash areas** in New Brighton Park.

We are seeking public feedback on these design options.

Habitat Restoration – Two Design Options

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Port Metro Vancouver would like your feedback on two design options for the proposed habitat restoration project. Common features of the two design options include:

- A salt marsh connected to Burrard Inlet.
- A stream connection (Renfrew Creek) from the salt marsh to Creekway Park.
- Enhanced trails, backshore planting, and education features that are consistent with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation’s “Access to Nature” goal.



Image of an existing Salt Marsh, Sidney Island B.C.

Considerations Common to Both Design Options

- Natural marine tidal processes and habitat would be restored within the central harbour of Burrard Inlet.
- Habitat diversity and value for fish and wildlife would be increased by creating shoreline marine habitat.
- Daylighting¹ of Renfrew Creek would be completed in the backshore zone and would support species diversity.
- The Renfrew Creek stream would be a distinctive feature, drawing attention to the restored habitat and the connection to Creekway Park.
- Riparian understory plantings (e.g., shrubs and bushes) under mature trees south of the pool access road could boost habitat value.
- Soil removed to create the habitat features would be retained onsite at suitable location(s) within the park. This is anticipated to reduce overall project costs and environmental impacts of truck-hauling and disposing this material at an offsite location.
- Views would be unobstructed from the pool area to the North Shore mountains.
- Park experience would be improved for park users, and there would be increased potential for park programming and educational opportunities.

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

HABITAT RESTORATION

Port Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation would like your feedback on the **two following habitat restoration design options**. See page 10 to answer questions about this topic.

1. Single Outlet Salt Marsh Concept

This option would include a salt marsh with a single channel opening to Burrard Inlet at the northeast corner of the park. Foreshore boulders and a cobble beach would be added at the opening to reduce wave erosion. Interpretive signage and salt marsh viewing areas could be provided along the western edge of the salt marsh.



Considerations

- The flow of water at the outlet would be stronger with one opening, creating a more dynamic environment.
- The opening to Burrard Inlet could experience wave erosion, which may affect marsh development.
 - Foreshore boulders and a cobble beach are expected to mitigate potential erosion.
 - Further design development to the channel opening (e.g., adjusting the angle of the opening) could also mitigate for wave erosion.

2. Salt Marsh with Island Concept

This option would include a salt marsh with two channel openings to Burrard Inlet, creating a tidal 'island,' at the northeast corner of the park. Foreshore boulders and a cobble beach would be added at the west opening to reduce wave erosion. Interpretive signage and salt marsh viewing areas could be provided along the western edge of the salt marsh.



Considerations

- Improved hydraulic flushing is anticipated to lead to improved water quality within the marsh.
- Two channel openings to Burrard Inlet could reduce the speed of the outgoing tide as it drains from the salt marsh during a tide cycle. This may reduce the potential for channel erosion, but could also allow for debris and sediment to accumulate.
- The tidal 'island' would provide an enhanced protected habitat feature for wildlife.
- Two channel openings would enhance access to the salt marsh for aquatic organisms (e.g., juvenile salmonids).
- It would be more costly to install two openings and channels.

DOG OFF-LEASH AND OTHER PARK FEATURES – CONSULTATION TOPIC

The proposed shoreline habitat restoration project will provide new opportunities for park users to experience nature within New Brighton Park. This could include a trail on the western edge of the salt marsh, two viewing areas, and continued access to the beaches in the eastern shore of the park. However, the proposed project will also change how the eastern portion of New Brighton Park is used.

- The tennis court on the east side of New Brighton Park is in poor condition and will be removed. Improvements will be made to the surface of the two tennis courts at Burrard View Park in 2016.
- The proposed shoreline habitat restoration project will affect the existing dog off-leash area in New Brighton Park. Options for maintaining or improving the off-leash use are described in the following pages.



Park users told us access to water is an important part of off-leash activities in New Brighton Park

Dog Off-Leash Use

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recognizes the importance of off-leash use in New Brighton Park, and will ensure off-leash use is maintained and improved. Outside the busy summer period when the New Brighton Pool is open, park users with dogs are the dominant group using the park. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is beginning 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.

We learned several things about dog use in the park during the first consultation period:

- Many park users requested year-round access to the water, particularly to the beach just east of the wood pier. At present, dogs can only use the beach and the rest of the off-leash area between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM during the busy summer months to avoid conflicts with other park users.
- Other park users with dogs indicated that the western portion of the park with the expansive grassed areas were more important for their uses. While the western portion of the park is outside the existing dog off-leash area, it is recognized as an area removed from the pool and playground where dog activities can occur without conflicts with other park users.
- Many participants requested improvements to the quality of the off-leash area including water for dogs, better drainage to avoid winter mud, and benches. Perimeter fences were requested by some respondents.

DOG OFF-LEASH AND PARK USE FEATURES

Port Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation would like your feedback on the **two following dog off-leash options**.
See page 12 to answer questions about this topic.

1. Double Off-Leash Areas (East and West)

This option would include two sections of the park for off-leash use: one area with year-round beach access at the east beach (where there is currently limited summer use), and the other a larger open area for running (about 95 m across) in the western part of the park. The total combined size would be about 13,700 m². Both areas would be fenced to reduce conflicts with other park users.

It may also be possible to have a larger East Off-Leash Area, as shown on the following page, in combination with the West Off-Leash area shown below.

Considerations

- The total off-leash area would be slightly smaller than the existing dog off-leash area.
- An enclosed off-leash area with year-round (unrestricted) access to the beach and water would be provided in the eastern part of the park, close to the existing dog off-leash area.
- There would be a mix of open areas, beach, and water for different activities for different types of dogs.
- Additional amenities could be provided, including:
 - Drinking water for dogs
 - Benches
 - Improved drainage
- The West Off-Leash Area is located at the opposite end of the park from the existing dog off-leash area.
- There is no proposed beach access on the western side of the park due to potential conflict with other park activities.



2. Single Off-Leash Area (East)

This option would include a single dog off-leash area adjacent to the most accessible beach in the park, with year-round beach access (where there is currently limited summer use). The longest run distance is about 95 m through an upslope grassed area. Total size would be approximately 7,500 m². Additional amenities, such as drinking water for dogs, benches, improved drainage, and a log obstacle course could be provided in the off-leash area. The area would be fenced to reduce conflicts with other park users.



Considerations

- There would be a mix of open grassed areas, beach, and water that provides for different activities for different types of dogs.
- Year-round (unrestricted) access to the beach and water would be provided.
- Additional amenities could be provided, including:
 - Drinking water for dogs
 - Benches
 - Improved drainage
 - Log obstacle course
- Total area would be smaller than the existing dog off-leash area.

FEEDBACK QUESTIONS

Please provide your feedback by November 16, 2015.

Habitat Restoration Design Options

See pages 4–6 to answer questions about this topic.

1. A) Which of the following options for the habitat restoration design do you prefer? Please select one response only.

- Single Outlet Salt Marsh Concept (p. 5)
- Salt Marsh with Island Concept (p. 6)
- I like them both
- None of the above

B) Why is that? Please provide any comments you have regarding your preference, including comments on the following features of each habitat restoration design option:

- Salt marsh design
- Trail layout
- Viewing area locations

2. A) To reduce human disturbance of the salt marsh and Renfrew Creek, which of the following options do you prefer? Please select one response only.

- The strategic use of backshore plantings, such as tall grass and shrub thickets
- Fencing
- A combination of strategic backshore plantings and fencing
- Signage reminding park users not to disturb sensitive areas

B) Why is that? Please provide any comments you have regarding your preference.

About You

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. I identify as:

- Prefer not to answer

HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

The input gathered 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.

Please return your feedback form by November 16, 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

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.

