



Consideration Memo

Proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

PURPOSE

This Consideration Memo provides the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project team's response to input received as part of the public and stakeholder consultation for the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project. Two rounds of public and stakeholder consultation have been completed to date: August 26 – September 9, 2015 (Conceptual Design Public Consultation) and November 2 – 18, 2015 (Preliminary Design Public Consultation).

The New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project team ("the project team") is composed of members from Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. In addition to public consultation, the project team is engaging with the East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee regarding the proposed project. The project team attended two East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee meetings in May and December 2015 to provide information, answer questions, and gather input regarding the proposed project. The project team also established and engaged with the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project stakeholder advisory group in July, September and December 2015. The purpose of the advisory group is to provide a forum for individuals and representatives of organizations with an interest in New Brighton Park ecology, recreation, and general use to gather input and share information about the development of the proposed project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are working together to explore the restoration of habitat in New Brighton Park in Vancouver. The goal of the proposed project is to restore habitat for Burrard Inlet's fish and wildlife, and to increase public access to nature.

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW – HIGHLIGHTS

Conceptual Design Public Consultation (August 26 – September 9, 2015)

Conceptual design consultation included:

- A discussion paper and feedback form
- An online feedback form
- An engagement event on August 29, 2015
- Community visits conducted by the project team in New Brighton Park

Consultation topics included:

- Access and recreational features:
 - Preferred features to improve access to nature within New Brighton Park
- Ecological features:
 - The potential introduction of new measures to improve songbird and bat habitat
- Educational features:
 - The establishment of new educational features, such as interpretive signage on the cultural, historical, and ecological features and benefits of biodiversity and habitat restoration
- Dog off-leash changes:
 - Potential improvements to a dog off-leash area in New Brighton Park
- Park use:
 - Frequency of use
 - Mode of access
 - Seasonal use
 - Use of New Brighton Park's facilities

Notification of opportunities to participate included:

- An email to approximately 790 stakeholders in advance of the consultation period
- A localized postcard mail drop sent out to 7,874 residences and businesses in advance of the consultation period
- An email to all members of the East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (9 members) and to all members of the stakeholder advisory group (11 members) in advance of the consultation period
- A reminder email to approximately 790 stakeholders during the consultation period
- Notification posters placed in public spaces/community boards in several locations throughout the community
- Social media:
 - A series of tweets from @portmetrovan to approximately 8,600 followers and from @ParkBoard to approximately 15,300 followers

- A series of Facebook posts from Port Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015)

Preliminary design consultation included:

- A discussion paper and feedback form
- An online feedback form
- Two public information sessions:
 - November 3, 2015
 - November 7, 2015
- Community visits conducted by the project team in New Brighton Park

Consultation topics included:

- Habitat restoration project components:
 - Two preliminary design options for the habitat restoration component of the project
 - Measures to reduce human disturbance of the restored habitat area
 - Potential wildlife nesting/roosting features for songbirds, raptors and bats
- Dog off-leash and other park features:
 - Two preliminary dog off-leash and park use options
 - Proposed fencing options for off-leash areas in New Brighton Park

Notification of opportunities to participate in consultation included:

- An email to approximately 1,850 stakeholders in advance of the consultation period
- A localized postcard mail drop sent out to 7,874 residences and businesses in advance of the consultation period
- A newspaper ad inviting members of the public to participate in consultation, with two insertions in the *Georgia Straight*
- An email to all members of the East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (9 members) and to all members of the stakeholder advisory group (11 members) in advance of the consultation period
- Four reminder emails to approximately 1,850 stakeholders during the consultation period
- Signage with information about the project, the preliminary design concepts, and how to participate in consultation, was installed in New Brighton Park near the proposed project site
- Notification posters placed in public spaces/community boards in several locations throughout the community
- Social media:
 - A series of tweets from @portmetrovan to approximately 8,900 followers and from @ParkBoard to approximately 16,100 followers
 - A series of Facebook posts from Port Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

INPUT CONSIDERATION AND PROJECT TEAM RESPONSES

Input received during each consultation period for the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project was compiled in Consultation Summary Reports, which are available online at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh. The Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation worked together to consider the input provided through the consultation process.

The following table summarizes input from:

- Conceptual Design Public Consultation (August 26 – September 9, 2015)
 - Feedback forms: 133 received online or in hardcopy
 - Open submissions: 3 received via email
 - Engagement event (1) and community visits (5): participants identified several areas of interest in their interactions with the project team
- Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015)
 - Feedback forms: 148 received online and in hardcopy
 - Open submissions: 14 received via email.
 - Public information sessions (2) and community visits (2): participants identified several areas of interest in their interactions with the project team.
- Stakeholder advisory group meetings (3 meetings in July, September and December 2015)
- East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee meetings (2 meetings in May and December 2015)

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<p>1. Recreational Access to Restored Habitat Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked to rank features to improve access to nature in New Brighton Park. They ranked "loop trail around the salt marsh/habitat" as most preferred (41% ranked this option first, and 25% ranked this option second), and "raised viewing area(s)" as the second most preferred (23% ranked this option first, and 29% ranked this option second). Participants requested improved, larger, closer, or additional viewing trails/boardwalk and viewing opportunities (e.g. on the east side of the salt marsh) to improve public access to nature. Some participants asked for amenities that would provide additional wildlife viewing opportunities (e.g. cameras and binoculars for bird watching). Participants raised concerns that the protection of the restored habitat area should be balanced with visibility and access to wildlife features and the salt marsh to engage and inform park users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (July 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though participants indicated a preference for a "loop trail around the salt marsh/habitat", the project team has decided not to pursue a loop trail due to public safety concerns and to protect ecological values. The importance of separating the restored habitat area from park users and dogs emerged as a major theme during consultation. (Please see 9. Protecting the Restored Habitat Area.) The project will provide new opportunities for park users to experience nature within New Brighton Park from trails and viewing areas from the west side of the salt marsh. Viewing opportunities will be concentrated on the west side of the restored habitat area and will be refined during the detailed design phase. The viewing areas will be very close to the marsh and it is anticipated park users will be able to see the salt marsh and wildlife from the viewing areas unaided. At this time, the project team is not considering including cameras for bird watching. To address public safety concerns and protect the restored habitat area, trails and viewing areas are not proposed for the eastern side of the salt marsh. Improving public access to nature and protecting the restored habitat area are key objectives of the project.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<p>2. Educational Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants generally agreed with establishing new educational features (e.g. interpretive signage) at New Brighton Park (56% strongly agreed and 30% somewhat agreed). Participants expressed interest in educational or interpretive opportunities as part of the project (e.g. educational tours/programming, skills building, school involvement, arts/culture opportunities, and informational/interpretive signage, which could include ecological, historical, and cultural information along with maps and images). Participants suggested that interpretive signage be accessible via smartphone. Participants requested that interpretive signage be unobtrusive and low maintenance. Stakeholder advisory group members stated that interpretive signage is an exciting opportunity and that they would like to be included in planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (July 2015) Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team is reviewing options, such as the installation of interpretive signage, potentially with smartphone interactivity, to support education about the historical, cultural and ecological values of Burrard Inlet. The project team will also look to incorporate educational and interpretive opportunities in addition to conventional signage during the detailed design phase. When designing interpretive signage, the project team will seek to meet educational goals while remaining unobtrusive. The project team will seek input from stakeholder advisory group members, as well as other stakeholders, members of the public, and Aboriginal groups, when designing interpretive signage during the detailed design phase.
<p>3. Bird/Bat/Raptor Nesting Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants generally agreed with introducing new measures to improve song bird habitat (83% strongly agreed and 7% somewhat agreed). Participants generally agreed with introducing new measures to improve bat habitat (71% strongly agreed and 10% somewhat agreed). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the key objectives of the proposed project is to improve biodiversity in Burrard Inlet. Bird and bat habitat opportunities will be incorporated into the design, as appropriate, during the detailed design phase. In consideration of consultation feedback regarding the visibility of wildlife features, the project team will work to include some visible and some hidden wildlife features in the project design.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When asked whether they prefer potential wildlife features, such as bird nesting/perching and bat roosting structures to be hidden or visible, participants selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible (38%) No preference (33%) Hidden, through careful siting or design (26%) Participants generally agreed with including a nesting feature within New Brighton Park for raptors (48% strongly agreed and 23% somewhat agreed). Participants raised concerns that a raptor nesting feature may not look nice in the park, or that an artificial feature would not attract raptors. Participants expressed concern regarding potential impacts of raptors on the safety of dogs and wildlife in the restored habitat area. Participants requested that the project support bird and other habitat (e.g. the incorporation of cavity-friendly trees, nesting structures for barn swallows and barn owls and “loafing logs”). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife features may include vegetation that supports bird nesting and foraging, as well as nesting/perching structures for birds and roosting structures for bats. It may not be appropriate to have a raptor perch site or nest platform at the salt marsh site or dog off-leash area because of predation of shorebirds, waterfowl and small dogs by raptors, and the project team is currently exploring opportunities for raptor perching at other locations in the park. Detailed planting specifications will be developed during the detailed design phase. The project team will work to incorporate native plant species that support a diverse array of wildlife values.
<p>4. Fish, Marine and Other Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested that the habitat support salmon. Participants expressed support for the creation of rocky reefs to increase productivity and biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of fish habitat is one of the primary objectives of this project. Tidal marshes provide direct habitat values to fish, including juvenile salmon on a seasonal basis. Subtidal habitat enhancement such as creation of rocky reefs or boulder habitat is no longer being considered as a part of this project, as

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed interest in the types of wildlife that are expected to use the habitat. 		<p>ecological assessments indicate that the subtidal area to the north of New Brighton Park already has high ecological value (bull kelp, sea lettuce etc.). The ecological conditions report is available in the "In-Depth" section of the project page at vancouver.ca/newbrightontsaltmarsh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to providing habitat for fish, including juvenile salmon, the mudflat and salt marsh is anticipated to provide habitat for water birds, including waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. The inclusion of native shrub, shoreline forest and meadow vegetation is also beneficial for songbirds and overall habitat complexity at the site.
<p>5. General Habitat Restoration Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed the importance of considering climate change, storm events, and erosion in the design. Participants suggested that the flow of water should be dynamic if possible and the channel leading to the salt marsh should be meandering/interesting. Participants suggested staggering the heights of the outlets to make water flow dynamic. An East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee member suggested the rehabilitation of the small beach immediately east of New Brighton Park (adjacent to Viterra Terminal). Participants raised concerns that some people may want to walk through the habitat area to reach the water and suggested to consider this in the design to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder advisory group (September and December 2015) East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal engineers have been retained on the design team to incorporate coastal design criteria, as appropriate, to ensure the habitat achieves its biophysical objectives. Additionally, the project team is currently considering submitting the project for Green Shores certification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Shores is a Stewardship Centre for BC program that promotes sustainable use of shoreline ecosystems through planning and design that recognizes the ecological features and functions of shoreline systems. The Green Shores certification ratings system recognizes applicants who submit a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to encourage consideration of climate change impacts in the planning and design of shore developments.

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<p>prevent people from establishing trails/impacting vegetation to reach the water on the east side of the project site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that the restored habitat area be left to develop in a "messy"/natural way to allow for and maintain biodiversity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design team will work towards incorporating, where possible, dynamic design features for the creek connection and marsh channels. Rehabilitation of the small beach or cove immediately east of New Brighton Park is not being considered by the project team. It is currently leased to Viterra. The project team will work to implement some measures to ensure that wildlife in the restored habitat area is not disturbed by park users seeking to establish trails or impact the vegetation to reach the water on the east side of the project site. In consideration of consultation feedback indicating that most participants preferred either a combination of fencing and backshore plantings, or the strategic use of backshore plantings, the project team will ensure that some form of dense backshore plantings will be included in the project design. The decision to include or exclude fencing will be determined during the detailed design phase. The salt marsh is intended to be a no maintenance or low maintenance zone that can respond to natural ecological processes such as sediment accretion.
<p>6. Salt Marsh Design Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants generally preferred the Salt Marsh with Island Concept (61% selected "Salt Marsh with Island Concept"), while 11% of participants selected "Single Outlet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to consultation feedback indicating a preference for the Salt Marsh with Island Concept, the project team supports pursuing the Salt Marsh with Island Concept. The Salt Marsh with Island Concept has several benefits, including that:

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<p>Salt Marsh Concept," and 23% of participants selected "I like them both."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that they preferred the Salt Marsh with Island Concept as it would provide a restored habitat area protected from dogs or humans. Participants also indicated that they preferred the Salt Marsh with Island Concept due to improved marine habitat and values, as well as a more engaging user experience. Participants noted that they liked the trails and viewing locations of this concept, and the potential for a bridge or educational opportunities. Some participants raised questions and concerns regarding the cost and benefits of the Salt Marsh with Island Concept. Participants expressed concern that the island may be misused by people, or that the island could be a safety concern. Participants raised a concern that the Salt Marsh with Island Concept would disconnect park users from viewing wildlife and the habitat. 	(December 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 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, which may reduce the potential for channel erosion. Detailed costs for the project will be refined during the detailed design phase. The project team is considering the use of fences and signage to limit access to the island, in order to protect ecological values and public safety. A bridge from the park to the island is not being considered as part of this project. Most of the rest of New Brighton Park provides unimpeded access to the shoreline.
<p>7. Single Outlet Salt Marsh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some participants noted that they preferred the Single Outlet Salt Marsh Concept due to improved tidal dynamics, preferable viewing areas/trail layout, and/or better/simpler design. Some participants expressed that they preferred the Single Outlet Salt Marsh Concept as it may provide a better buffer between the public and industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see 6. Salt Marsh Design Options.

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8. Renfrew Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed support for the restoration of Renfrew Creek. Participants noted that the community may prefer the name "Hastings Creek." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (September and December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the project will include the creation of stream habitat at the southern end of the park, connecting Creekway and Hastings parks. The project team will be seeking feedback from Aboriginal groups on the names "Renfrew Creek" and "Hastings Creek" in early 2016.
9. Options to Protect the Restored Habitat Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked which measures they preferred in order to reduce the potential for human disturbance of the salt marsh and Renfrew Creek. They generally supported "a combination of strategic backshore plantings and fencing" (52%) and "the strategic use of backshore plantings, such as tall grass and shrub thickets" (42%). Participants noted they preferred a combination of fencing and planting, as it would limit access while enhancing habitat and will not make the area feel unwelcoming. Some participants requested a combination of: signage and backshore plantings, or all three options (backshore plantings, signage, and fencing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation Conceptual Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (September 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consideration of consultation feedback indicating that most participants preferred either a combination of fencing and backshore plantings, or the strategic use of backshore plantings, the project team will ensure that some form of backshore plantings will be included in the project design. The decision to include or exclude fencing will be determined during the detailed design phase. Signs will also be used to restrict use in sensitive or unsafe areas. Homelessness concerns will be addressed through monitoring Ranger patrols, and other means as with any City park.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants raised concerns that homeless people may take shelter in the vegetated areas and noted that the restoration area should be easy to clean up. Participants expressed concern about the disruption of the restored habitat area by humans or dogs. Participants suggested that access to the salt marsh needs to be restricted or far removed from the off-leash area to ensure that dogs and/or people do not disturb the habitat. 		
<p>10. Fencing of the Restored Habitat Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that fencing provides a physical barrier and deterrent that may be necessary to keep dogs or humans away from the restored habitat area. Some participants expressed opposition to fencing the restored habitat area as it is unnatural/unattractive, ineffective, could detract from viewing opportunities, and may result in maintenance/cost issues. Participants requested low fencing of the restored habitat area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team will work to find a balance between aesthetic value and protection of the salt marsh and Renfrew Creek as the project proceeds through the detailed design phase.
<p>11. Backshore Plantings to Protect the Restored Habitat Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants noted that backshore plantings are a more effective, natural, attractive and unobtrusive barrier and will provide additional habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to potentially providing signage, the project team will also work to ensure that some form of dense backshore plantings and/or a combination of backshore plantings and fencing can be included in the project design to limit access to the restored habitat area.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are several good examples of fences embedded within dense shrub thickets along the New Brighton Park shoreline (east of pier); these are models for how some of the fencing may be designed.
12. Signage to Protect the Restored Habitat Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants raised concerns that people may ignore and/or vandalize signs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage will be maintained as with any Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation park.
13. Light/Noise/Soil/Air Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts of noise and light from nearby rail and terminals, or of contaminated soil (e.g. the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) or air pollution on wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local terminal and rail activities are not expected to measurably impact fish or wildlife habitat. Some noise and light effects are also unavoidable given the industrial use of the surrounding area. Soil and groundwater tests completed in the project area indicate that the majority of the soil removed to create the salt marsh is of suitable quality to remain on site. It is anticipated that a small volume of soil could be removed from the park site, due to contaminants from historic fill.
14. Project Funding and Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested more information and expressed concerns about the project's funding and budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Metro Vancouver is the primary funding partner for the construction of the habitat restoration components of the project. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is currently reviewing the cost of other features.

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15. Project Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed interest in becoming involved in the project, and offered ecological, botanical, biological, or artistic input. Some participants offered alternate design ideas for the habitat restoration area. 	• Preliminary Design Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team will consider opportunities for local stewardship groups and educational institutions to be involved in monitoring, stewardship and education, as they are brought forward by interested groups. Ecological, botanical, biological, design, and artistic suggestions have been reviewed and considered by the project team. Members of the public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide further input during the detailed design phase.
16. Support/Need for the Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed support for the project, stating that restoration of this kind is needed in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team undertook two rounds of public consultation in 2015. Expressions of support were received through public consultation and stakeholder advisory group feedback, and were publicly reported in consultation summary reports. The site has been selected based on its location and potential to increase the overall ecological value of the restoration site and benefit a broad range of fish and wildlife species, as well as on compatibility with park master plans.
17. Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed appreciation for notification and/or the opportunity to provide input. Participants expressed appreciation for the incorporation of consultation feedback in project development to date. Some participants expressed appreciation for the consideration of enhancement of off-leash areas. 	• Preliminary Design Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team undertook two rounds of public consultation in 2015. Expressions of support were received through public consultation and stakeholder advisory feedback, and were publicly reported in consultation summary reports. The project team is appreciative of the high level of public interest in the project and the feedback contributed to date by stakeholders and members of the public.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
18. Aboriginal Groups' Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed interest in the involvement of Aboriginal Groups in the project including consultation and input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May 2015) Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (September 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A separate, but parallel, consultation process with Aboriginal groups has been undertaken by the project team. Local Aboriginal groups were also invited to provide feedback through this public and stakeholder engagement process.
19. More Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested more information regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions that might support brackish marsh-type habitat; Similar projects that have worked well; The project's target species; and Why ecological restoration is being supported over recreational use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder advisory group (July 2015) Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The type of habitat proposed as part of this project is salt marsh. There will not be enough fresh water to create brackish marsh conditions. There are several projects within the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin region that have created or restored salt marshes successfully. The project's primary target species include juvenile Pacific salmon (e.g. pink, chum, coho and chinook) out-migrating along Burrard Inlet shorelines. The project is also expected to benefit a broad range of songbirds, wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, bats, and other wildlife. One of the key objectives of this project is to improve public access to nature. Existing park plans support salt marsh creation as part of the long-term development of New Brighton Park. It also supports the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's goal of supporting healthy ecosystems in parks. The 1997 Master Plan and

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
		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. New Brighton Park is a large park (10 ha) and creation of the salt marsh will not diminish the core recreation uses (walking, dog off-leash, picnicking, pool use, etc.).
20. Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested regular monitoring and cleaning of the salt marsh and nesting features. Participants expressed an interest in involving community or stewardship groups for ecological/scientific training. Participants requested that bird boxes be rat-proof and placed in concealed locations to avoid vandalism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder advisory group (July 2015) Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with other habitat enhancement projects undertaken by the Habitat Enhancement Program, the site will be subject to post-construction monitoring requirements to ensure biophysical objectives are met. For example, invasive species control will be required in the meadow and shrub thicket areas. Some maintenance activities may be undertaken by local stewards (e.g. nest box cleaning etc.).
21. Habitat Enhancement Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed concerns that Port Metro Vancouver may use this project to further a port-related development project (e.g. Roberts Bank Terminal 2, or a trucking facility) and that this aspect of the project is not made public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project is not tied to any specific port-related infrastructure development project. The Habitat Enhancement Program, which was formalized through a 2012 Working Agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, is a proactive measure intended to provide a balance between a healthy environment and future development that may be required for port operations. (This 2012 Working Agreement is available at portmetrovancouver.com/habitatenhancement.) Port development projects that may use this habitat for offsetting would be subject to the regulatory guidelines of Fisheries and Oceans

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		Canada as well as other regulators as necessary.
<p>22. Off-Leash Area Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When asked which dog off-leash option they preferred, participants were somewhat more supportive of the Double Off-Leash Area concept (26% selected “Double Off-Leash Areas” and 21% selected “I would like to see them combined,” while 25% selected “Single Off-Leash Area,” 13% selected “None of the above” and 10% selected “I like them both.”) Participants requested separate off-leash areas for large dogs and for small dogs. Participants suggested an alternate single off-leash area in the western portion of the park, including off-leash access to the west beach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (September and December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2015, the project team consulted on two proposed options for off-leash areas. However, during consultation the project team heard some suggestions for an alternative option with off-leash use concentrated in the western portion of the park. The project team also heard that people supported the separation of off-leash use from the restored habitat area because of concerns about impacts to wildlife and habitat in the salt marsh. The project team is seeking further input from public and stakeholders from February 1 – 15, 2016 to collect additional feedback on two refined off-leash options described below. (For more information on this round of public engagement, please visit vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.) The objective will be to recommend a preferred option to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. In response to consultation feedback, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has identified two refined options for the dog off-leash area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-Leash Areas with East Beach: A western grass area combined with an eastern beach area (this is similar to the “Double Off-Leash Area” option proposed

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
		<p>in Preliminary Design Public Consultation, but with a reduced off-leash space in the eastern portion of the park in consideration of concerns about dogs near the restored habitat area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Off-Leash Areas with West Beach: A western grass area combined with a western beach area. These options provide the range of uses (open grass, beach, water, etc.) requested by park visitors with dogs, and some members of the public and stakeholder advisory group. ● There is no proposed separation of off-leash areas for large and small dogs in New Brighton Park. The results of the engagement process suggest that this is not a major concern for visitors with dogs.
<p>23. Off-Leash Area – Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants suggested that it is important to have as much off-leash space as possible in New Brighton Park. Some participants raised concerns that the project represents a reduction of off-leash space and/or water access. ● Participants suggested that it is important to have both open grassy space and beach access for dogs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Design Public Consultation ● East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each of the refined off-leash options noted in the response to 22. Off-Leash Area Options would result in a slight reduction in off-leash area compared to the currently designated off-leash area. (<i>Off-Leash Areas with East Beach</i> would total 1.04 ha and <i>Off-Leash Areas with West Beach</i> would total 1.05 ha compared to the current area of 1.39 ha). However, some of the current off-leash area is not available for off-leash activities, as some space is inaccessible due to trees, shrubs and rocky shoreline areas. ● Overall, the useable off-leash area will be similar in the future. Specifically, the large grassed area in the west of the park would provide a large and unimpeded area for running.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both refined off-leash options described in the response to 22. Off-Leash Area Options include grass and beach/water access, which are recognized as the core uses by visitors with dogs.
<p>24. Restrict Off-Leash Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested fencing the off-leash area(s) or limiting dog use of the park. Participants requested that less off-leash space be set aside, due to concerns that the <i>Double Off-Leash Areas</i> proposed in Preliminary Design Public Consultation do not leave enough space for other park users. Some participants expressed concern that park use for dogs is being given too much priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on a City-wide policy for dogs in parks, all new or redeveloped off-leash areas will be fenced to prevent conflicts with other park activities. Fencing and access gate options (location, materials, and height) will be considered during the detailed design phase. Dog off-leash activities are recognized as a core use by visitors to New Brighton Park. Some of the conflicts between off-leash dogs and other park activities will be avoided or reduced with improved fencing, signs, and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation enforcement.
<p>25. Oppose Fencing of Off-Leash Area(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested that the off-leash area not be fenced. Some participants expressed their opposition to fencing the off-leash area, as it feels divisive, sterile, unwelcoming, or not conducive to exercise, may exclude activities with dogs and the entire family and/or will ruin the park for non-dog owners. Participants expressed opposition to fencing off-leash areas, as it could be unnecessary and/or costly. Participants stated that fenced off-leash areas may cause aesthetic issues and be underused, due to the unattractive look and feel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see the response to 24. Restrict Off-Leash Use.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
26. Off-Leash Area Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked which amenities they supported for off-leash area(s) in New Brighton Park. They were most supportive of "access to drinking water for dogs" (66%), "year-round access to the water at New Brighton Park Beach" (55%), and "benches or other seating areas" (52%). Participants also requested additional amenities for the off-leash area(s) (e.g. trails, a rain shelter, garbage can, water rinsing station for dogs, waste bag dispensers, bulletin board, double-gated entry, signage and/or lighting). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amenities in the off-leash area will be considered during the detailed design phase. It could include an additional seating area, but amenities such as improved drainage, obstacle course, and access to drinking water will depend on the location of the off-leash area. For example, it would be challenging to provide drinking water to the western side of the park due to a lack of nearby water service lines.
27. Off-Leash Area – Seasonal/Daily Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested no seasonal or time-of-day restrictions for the off-leash area, including the beach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No seasonal or daily use restrictions are proposed for the new dog off-leash areas (access to the beach is currently restricted to the early morning during the summer).
28. Enforcement of Off-Leash Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants raised concerns regarding the enforcement of on-leash areas, particularly the space between the two proposed off-leash areas, or on the way to/from the off-leash area. Some participants proposed that the off-leash areas be connected in order to reduce this problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of off-leash areas and restrictions on dog use is undertaken by Park Board Rangers. Patrols are made in response to public complaints or during routine park visits. If conflicts worsen, Rangers can respond using education and tickets.
29. Off-Leash Areas – Conflicts with Other Park Users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that the off-leash areas be well separated or fenced to reduce disturbance of other park uses. Participants raised concerns that off-leash use conflicts with or precludes other uses, including concern that: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the off-leash area will benefit park visitors both with and without dogs. Conflicts between off-leash use and other park activities will be reduced through siting of the off-leash areas based on use patterns, fencing around the perimeter (on upslope areas), signage, and enforcement.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Off-leash use is overtaking the park; ○ Off-leash use can cause other park users to feel unsafe; ● If designated off-leash area(s) are fenced, park users will not be able to use that space for other uses. 		
30. Park Users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants noted that dogs and their owners are primary users of the park, and that their needs for space and/or enhancements should be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Design Public Consultation ● Stakeholder advisory group (July 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dog off-leash activities are recognized as a core use by visitors to New Brighton Park and improvements to the off-leash area will benefit park visitors both with and without dogs.
31. Drainage of Off-Leash Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants raised concerns about drainage, surface material, and mud in the off-leash area(s) and the rest of the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conceptual Design Public Consultation ● Preliminary Design Public Consultation ● Stakeholder advisory group (September 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drainage is a concern in many parts of New Brighton Park. Some drainage improvements may be undertaken in the off-leash areas but New Brighton Park is expected to have wet muddy soils in the future. This is caused by poor soil structure which is difficult to address through new sub-surface drainage.
32. Off-Leash Area Fencing Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants were asked to rank options for fencing dog off-leash areas. They were generally supportive of vegetated fences (39% ranked this option first and 35% ranked this option second) and of split rail fencing (35% ranked this option first and 29% ranked this option second). ● Participants expressed concerns that metal fencing feels unnatural and is unattractive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please see the response to 24. Restrict Off-Leash Use.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested measures to ensure the security of fenced off-leash area(s) (e.g. double gated entry or fencing that continues into the water). 		
<p>33. Off-Leash Areas – Vegetated Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants stated that vegetated fences provide an effective barrier, screening, additional habitat for insects and birds (e.g. passerines), and/or a more attractive, natural and friendly look and feel. Some participants stated concerns that vegetated fencing will attract invasive plants, birds, pests, and/or it looks unkempt. Some participants indicated concerns with the effectiveness and security of vegetated fences. Participants provided suggestions for species for vegetated fences (e.g. ivy or other vines, or native species to create a dense hedge to attract birds and insects). Some participants suggested the use of chain link fencing with vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are several good examples of vegetated fences with the fence embedded within dense shrub thickets along the New Brighton Park shoreline (east of pier); these are models for how some of the fencing may be designed. The project team acknowledges that vegetated fences may also obstruct views and are not appropriate in all areas. Fencing options (location, materials, and height) will be considered during the detailed design phase.
<p>34. Off-Leash Areas – Split Rail Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that they prefer the natural aesthetic and/or more welcoming feeling of split rail fencing. Participants raised some concerns that split rail would not be effective enough. Participants raised questions and concerns about the maintenance and cost of fencing, particularly split rail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Split rail fences will be considered during the detailed design phase. The split rail fence at the Devonian Harbour Park in Vancouver (near Stanley Park) off-leash area is a good example.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that split rail fencing feels more open and/or provides more visibility. 		
35. Off-Leash Areas – Chain Link Fencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants stated concerns that chain link fencing is unattractive, unwelcoming and/or feels punitive. Some participants suggested that chain link is the most effective and/or easiest to maintain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chain-link fencing is not considered a suitable fencing option at New Brighton Park.
36. Off-Leash Areas – Wood with Metal Mesh Fencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested that metal mesh fencing is effective, allows better views, is more attractive, unobtrusive, and/or easy to maintain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood with metal mesh fencing will be considered during the detailed design phase.
37. Off-Leash Areas – Visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants raised concerns regarding how fencing may impact view potential, visibility, and about the safety impacts of a lack of visibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility and safety concerns will be considered when evaluating fencing options and locations.
38. Park Use Frequency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked about the frequency that they use the park. 56% of participants selected "less than once per month," while 22% selected "1 – 2 times per month." Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked how they access New Brighton Park. 54% of participants selected "Car," and 38% selected "Bike." Participants expressed interest in improving public access to the park, including parking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In consideration of consultation feedback, the majority of construction activities are anticipated to take place outside of the summer months, as this is when New Brighton Park is used most frequently. No new parking or modification to existing parking is proposed as a part of this habitat restoration project.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<p>Time of Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When asked what time of year they visit New Brighton Park, 80% of participants selected "Summer," while 67% selected "Fall," 66% selected "Spring," and 45% selected "Winter." <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When asked which park facilities they use when visiting New Brighton Park, 61% of participants selected "Trails," and 59% selected "Beach." 		
<p>39. Park Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested additional community amenities in the park (e.g. paths, benches, rain shelters, a dock, and WiFi for the park). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project does not include additional amenities outside of the habitat restoration area and the off-leash areas.
<p>40. Recreational Access to/Space in the Remainder of the Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants requested greater access and improvements to the shoreline. Participants expressed concern about the reduction of useable recreational space in the park (e.g. the open space, playing fields, tennis courts, off-leash beach, and fishing access). An East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee member asked about improving the eastern beach for the public if the off-leash area was moved to the western beach. An East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee member asked about expectations of increased use of the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation Stakeholder advisory group (September 2015) East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May and December 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Brighton Park is a large park (10 ha) that can support a wide variety of uses including the pool, playing field, shoreline trails, wooden pier, beaches, and open space. The habitat restoration project will be approximately 1.5 – 2.0 ha in size. It will be designed to protect views of the water and mountains and will complement the existing park experience. The tennis court is in poor condition and is rarely used. The removal of the tennis court will be off-set by improvements to courts at the Burrardview Park. The residential area surrounding New Brighton Park is expected to grow, so park use is expected to increase.

Summary of Input	Source of Input	Project Team Response
<p>41. Additional Plantings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants suggested planting large trees/shrubs/flowers in the remainder of the park. Participants also requested additional plantings in the restoration area to enhance habitat and for cultural interpretation (e.g. native shrubs and trees, downed wood, and/or root wads). Participants asked whether the trees located on the east side of New Brighton Park will be removed as part of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation Preliminary Design Public Consultation East Vancouver Port Lands Liaison Committee (May 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting will be undertaken in the restored habitat area. This is anticipated to include trees, shrubs, marsh, and meadow areas. No new trees are proposed in other areas of the park although the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation proposes to work with park users and the community to identify sites for tree planting, outside of this project. Some trees in the grass area on the east side of the park will be removed or relocated to create the salt marsh. However, the row of tall poplars along the park's eastern boundary will be protected.
<p>42. Previous Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants expressed concerns that past projects in New Brighton Park have not improved the park for users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conceptual Design Public Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Brighton Park is a well-used and popular park. Many of the improvements have been valued by park users, including shoreline stabilization and playground improvements.