

Purpose

This public consultation and engagement plan provides an overview of public and stakeholder consultation and engagement activities that have been undertaken to date on the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project, and outlines how Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program, working with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, plans to undertake Detailed Design Public Consultation activities in May 2016.

Project overview

Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement Program is working with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation 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 the Habitat Enhancement Program's objectives, the goal of the proposed project is to restore habitat for Burrard Inlet's fish and wildlife, and increase public access to nature. 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 proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project area is situated on the south side of Burrard Inlet, west of the Second Narrows Bridge. The proposed project could result in the restoration and enhancement of approximately 2.5 hectares of habitat located on the east side of New Brighton Park. Project components may also include the creation of a tidal wetland area with a salt marsh component, enhancement of riparian habitat, and the possible creation of stream habitat at the southern end of the park, connecting to Creekway and Hastings Parks.

Project rationale

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 Burrard Inlet for juvenile salmon rearing.

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 will tie into Creekway Park, completing a vital piece in Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's 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.

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

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 1960-1970s, which resulted in the loss of valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Public consultation and engagement approach

Port Metro Vancouver's Habitat Enhancement program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (the project team) are jointly undertaking consultation and engagement activities.

Input received during public consultation and engagement 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.

Consultation and engagement undertaken to date

Pre-engagement, Conceptual Design Public Consultation, Preliminary Design Public Consultation and Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas are complete. Further information including public and stakeholder notification details, summary reports and a consideration memo can be found [online](#).

Upcoming Detailed Design Public Consultation

The project team will be undertaking Detailed Design Public Consultation between May 2 and 27, 2016 to provide information about the proposed project and gather feedback from communities, stakeholders and the public.

Detailed Design Public Consultation will include a discussion paper and feedback form, including an online feedback form and a public information session.

Notification of opportunities to participate in the consultation will include:

- A newspaper advertisement
- An email to the East Vancouver Port Lands and Liaison Committee and the Stakeholder Advisory Group
- An email to approximately 1,850 stakeholders
- Signage placed at New Brighton Park
- Social media: a series of tweets from @portmetrovan and @ParkBoard

As part of Detailed Design Public Consultation the project team will provide information about the proposed project, including project design, educational features, project and construction impacts, and proposed mitigation measures and will gather feedback from communities, stakeholders and the public. The feedback form will include questions about project design, educational features, project and construction impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.

Input gathered during Detailed Design Public 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.