



# 2. MASTER PLAN PHASES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The master plan is a refinement of the preliminary concepts incorporating response from the workshop. The plan is based on an understanding of constraints and opportunities of the site, the preferred program established by the public workshop and the preferred layout as a combination of preliminary concepts one and two. Since few parks of this size can be developed in one step, the master plan provides a framework for development in a series of steps over a period of time. Timing and order of development will be established by the logical progression of development of facilities and the availability of funds.

2.1 Park Character

The park will be divided into three zones each with its own appearance and distinct level of activity.

2.1.1

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# 1 The Commercial Zone

The commercial area will be the smallest zone in the park and will be located in the south-east corner of the site. The commercial zone will be the most intensively developed area of the park and will sustain the greatest amount of visitor activity. This zone will provide a logical transition between the extremes of the park's natural landscapes and the urbanized waterfront and residential areas of Steveston.

This transition is accomplished in the design by extending Moncton Street into the park in the form of a pedistrian plaza. The plaza will incorporate some feature to act as a focal point for the end of Moncton Street. eg. flags, clock tower, etc. The plaza serves as the major pedestrian entrance to the park and because of its proximity to the water provides an opportunity to immediately establish the water theme. The commercial area is characterized by paved surfaces with some formal planting in the plaza and more natural random planting in the parking lot and between the restaurant and the beach areas.

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The commercial area provides access to the water along the wharf and tidal stairs. It was considered important to.allow the visitor access to the water as soon as possible after entering the park.

2.1.2

The Maintained Natural Zone

This area includes that portion of the park includes the fresh water feature, the parking lot and adjacent areas. This zone will include open areas of turf and a plantings of <u>natural</u> shrubs and trees. The water feature will provide the focus for the development of other facilities. The open space will be used for passive activities requiring larger open areas for groups of park visitors. eg. picnicking

# 2.1.3

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# The Natural Zone

This will be the largest area of the park and will be located between the western tip and the west side of the water feature. This area will be characterized by dune-like landforms and planting that would be associated with dunes and shoreline landscapes. Dunes will be designed with moderately steep and gradual slopes to create sheltered pockets along the back of the beaches and along Scotch Pond.

Planting will consist mainly of grasses and a variety of shrubs. Trees will be restricted in numbers and limited to primitive species associated with delta, shoreline and estuary landscapes. Planting will be designed to require a minimum amount of maintenance. There will be no turf areas.

The zone will be used mainly by individuals and small groups of people strolling and sightseeing. Larger groups of people will be attracted to the beach area.

2.2 Activities and Facilities

The park design will support a variety of passive recreation activities. These are summarized below:

2.2.1 Picnicking - picnicking is provided in several locations for different group sizes. Picnic areas are located close to parking for easy access and near water to provide interesting views to the river activity. The largest area is located between the main parking lot and the pond. It is anticipated this area will get the major amount of use because of its easy access to cars. A smaller area is located next to the extension of Scotch Pond with views to fishing wharf and boats. It is assumed that children of all ages can play along the water's edge in both locations in relative safety.

> For all weather picnicking, a shelter is provided on the west side of the mound next to the restaurant. This facility will be designed to accommodate larger groups such as family reunions, company picnics, etc. It is anticipated that this area could be reserved for these special occassions. The shelter will include water, barbecues, fire pit and public address system. This same area could also serve for special events such as the Salmon Festival.

Walking - the park will provide a continuous walking trail around Garry Point. The trail will provide access to the water and views to off-site scenic resources. Lookouts will be provided at the promontory between the two beaches and at a structured lookout on the north-east corner of the park. Both lookout areas will include seating.

Seating will be provided at convenient locations along the trail to take advantage of views and sheltered locations wherever possible. Interpretive signage will be located along the trail to explain the different views, bird migration and to provide information about the fishing fleet, identifying types of fishing craft, their equipment, capacity, etc. Dog stations should be located at the entrance to the park and at other convenient locations.

2.2.2

The trail will all connect to the dyke trail and Moncton Street. Signs should be provided to give information about the trails system and location of other points of interest in the area.

- 2.2.3 Sunbathing the park design includes two beach areas of approximately 20,000 square metres. These beaches are intended for land based recreation only and signage will be required to warn people to stay out of the water. The beach area will be serviced by a washroom and change house located between the two beaches. This structure should be designed to integrate with its setting and not obstruct views or visually dominate the back shore area. Fire pits will be located in the back shore area and wood provided from the storm beach.
- 2.2.4 Freeplay this refers to casual sports such as frisbee, kite flying, model boating, etc. Although limited area is provided for these activities, the picnic sites lend themselves to pick-up sports and related activities.
- 2.2.5 Fishing it is anticipated that the restaurant wharf and beaches will provide adequate fishing areas for the sports fisherman.
- 2.2.6 Children's Play - a playground area has been designated along the west edge of the pond. It is emphasized that this playground should be custom built and not a collection of the contemporary structures to be found in most urban playgrounds. The playground will be designed on a marine theme and will have sections which cater to pre-schoolers, children five to seven and eight to eleven. The playground will include: access to water. a hard surfaced area, a safe sand jumping bank and structure which duplicates the present sand cliffs, and climbing and moving equipment which captures the appearance and feeling of fishing boats, equipment and wharves.

#### 2.3 Special Features

The park masterplan is designed to accommodate a number of special features. These features will require special funding and their feasibility depends largely on community interest and support.

2.3.1

1 Restaurant - the commercial zone has been designed to allow for a 5,200 square foot restaurant. The restaurant is seen as a destination facility able to attract people from anywhere in Richmond or the Lower Mainland. Its implementation could be a joint venture between municipality and private interests or any one of many concession arrangements.

> The structure is perceived as a two storey building providing a lounge, dining room, snack concession and outdoor patio. The building would have its own service area and would be serviced through the pedestrian plaza at non peak periods. Suggestions were made during the public workshop that the architectural character of the building should be established on a Japanese theme. It is felt that this would limit the type of tenant and that a structure more in keeping with the harbourfront architecture would be appropriate.

> Although implementation of the restaurant could proceed at anytime, it is recommended that linking its development with other Steveston developments such as the Parks Canada Historic Site and the B.C. Packers Residential Development would be appropriate.

2.3.2

Fisherman's Memorial - there are several prominent locations for a Fisherman's Memorial to be dedicated to those who have lost their lives and spent their lives providing a basic food commodity to the nation. Several appropriate symbols have been proposed including: a fisherman's needle, a lighthouse or beacon similiar to the structure which was located at the tip of the point in the early 1900's, statuary of men and women in the fishing industry, etc. Most likely locations include the plaza at the Moncton Street entrance, the wharf near the restaurant, the promontory between the two beaches or anywhere along the trail on the Fraser side of the park.

2.3.3

3 Garry Point Tree

Until the late 1800's a large tree, probably a Sitka Spruce was located at the end of Garry Point. This tree served as а navigational marker to sailors and pioneers arriving to the lower mainland and the mouth of the Fraser. Replanting the tree is perceived as an appropriate gesture to recapturing some of the heritage value of the Point.

2.3.4

# Japanese Garden

A large area of approximately four acres has been layed out on the north side of the pond. In the earlier phases of park development this will be an area of open space for freeplay and pick-up sports. In the long term the area could be ideally suited for a traditional Japanese Garden to recognize the heritage and importance of the Japanese community in Steveston today and in the past.

Although traditional Japanese gardens are very manicured, they symbolize natural qualities and characteristics and it is felt that the garden could be made to blend with other landscape features of the park. The inward traditional garden is oriented requiring substantial screening, making integration with the park landscape relatively easy.

The garden could consist of two parts, a wet garden with pond and appropriate features and dry garden with gravel beds and other symbolic features. The two parts of the garden could be separated by a structure resembling a traditional Japanese house. This could serve as a museum of Japanese history

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# in the area, bonsaí display, etc.

It is possible the garden could be developed to become a well known feature of the park to the extent that a small fee could be charged to help offset the maintenance costs. A traditional Japanese garden will require extensive maintenance and this cost must be considered in any decision to proceed with development.

2.3.5

#### Marine Interpretive Centre

The park is ideally suited for an outdoor education facility. Its location on the Fraser, the delta, Sturgeon Bank and its settlement history makes it a prime vehicle for both natural and historical interpretation. A small biological station which could be used by classrooms during the school year and by park visitors at other specified times would provide a very complementary facility to the school system and the Richmond Nature Park.

The availability of Parks Canada expertise at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery provides an ideal opportunity not only to utilize Parks Canada's resources but also to build a complementary program between the park and the historic site.

The facility will be located on the Scotch Pond extension. It is perceived as being a very simple structure with room for a small classroom, displays, washroom and service/storage. Suggestions have been made to include a group of non-motorized boats. eg.flat bottom punts, to provide classroom access to Sturgeon Bank and water safety drills.

The program could be established by the science teachers of Richmond who could use the resources of Parks Canada, West Water Research, UBC, Small Craft Harbours, DPW, GVRD and other government agencies.

