



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: August 30, 2017

From: Serena Lusk
Interim Director, Parks and Recreation

File: 11-7000-01/2017-Vol
01

Re: **Skateboarding Facilities in Richmond**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Skateboarding Facilities in Richmond," dated August 30, 2017, from the Interim Director, Parks and Recreation, be received for information.

Serena Lusk
Interim Director, Parks and Recreation
(604-233-3334)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO (DEPUTY) 	

Staff Report

Origin

At the February 23, 2016, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting, staff received the following referral:

That staff examine potential sites and costs of a skateboard park in the city and report back.

The purpose of this report is in response to the above referral and to provide information on existing skateboarding facilities in Richmond and throughout Metro Vancouver.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.3. Outstanding places, programs and services that support active living, wellness and a sense of belonging.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #6 Quality Infrastructure Networks:

Continue diligence towards the development of infrastructure networks that are safe, sustainable, and address the challenges associated with aging systems, population growth, and environmental impact.

6.1. Safe and sustainable infrastructure.

6.2. Infrastructure is reflective of and keeping pace with community need.

Analysis

Skateboarding Facilities in Richmond

The City of Richmond currently has three purpose-built skateboarding facilities: the River Road Skatepark, the Thompson Youth Park and Garden City Park.

River Road Skatepark

The River Road Skatepark was built in 1998 and features a large six foot bowled corner, a big half-pipe and two smaller half-pipes, three quarter-pipes, a series of rails, ledges and a stair rail (Attachment 1). The park is used by the local skateboarding community seasonally and is regularly inspected by Parks Operations staff to ensure safety and usability are maintained. The park has some issues including weathering as a result of exposure to the elements, settlement of surfaces, wear and an aging design relative to current skateboard trends.

As a result of design and maintenance issues raised by regular users of the park, in May 2017, New Line Skateparks, a full service design and construction firm specializing in the development of concrete skateparks, was engaged to complete an assessment of the park and make repair recommendations. They have recommended maintenance work to improve the safety and usability of the skatepark. Issues that have a potential impact on safety will continue to be addressed on an ongoing basis and will be funded through the Parks Operations budget. Additional work to improve the park as recommended by New Line Skateparks will be funded, if approved by Council as part of the 2018 budget process, through the Parks Aging Infrastructure program.

A preliminary estimate to install an all-weather shelter cover over the River Road Skatepark is in the range of \$700,000 to \$940,000, including lighting costs. Due to the high costs, covering the park is not recommended at this time.

Thompson Youth Park

Thompson Youth Park was developed in partnership with Thompson Community Association in phases starting in 2008, with the third and final phase completed in 2014 (Attachment 2). Phase three of the park was designed in a *parkour* theme and incorporated a curvilinear design of two elevated structures to provide youth with a challenging environment for physical activity, including skateboarding. At the top of both structures is a curved seating area to provide a place to socialize and view the entire park. This includes a wider, paved path leading to the top of one structure to allow for a fully accessible experience. Thompson Youth Park offers a skateboarding experience that is unique in the region.

Garden City Park

The Garden City “Skate Spot” includes skateboard features integrated into a park that has been designed for multiple uses (Attachment 3). This park is suitable for young and beginner skateboarders.

Metro Vancouver Skateboarding Facilities

Metro Vancouver municipalities are home to approximately 40 public and private skateparks that offer a wide variety of skateboarding experiences. Some regional highlights include:

- Delta’s four skateparks, including the newly opened West 49 private indoor skatepark in Tsawwassen Mills mall;
- Vancouver’s 12 skateparks, including Leaside, a covered park under the Cassiar Street Connector, Vancouver Skate Plaza under the Georgia Viaduct, and The Dry Spot, a private, indoor skatepark; and
- Surrey’s eight skateparks, including a covered skatepark at Cloverdale Youth Park.

Next Steps

An updated skateboard facility, including options for a covered skatepark, could meet community needs and will be considered as part of future park planning processes. Prior to

advancing any work on this project, a full assessment of the community need for a skatepark and a full design consultation process would be undertaken.

Staff will continue to work with the local skateboarding community to ensure that the three existing parks are safe and well-maintained. Staff will also continue to monitor the use of the existing parks and assess demand for new skateboarding facilities in the future.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

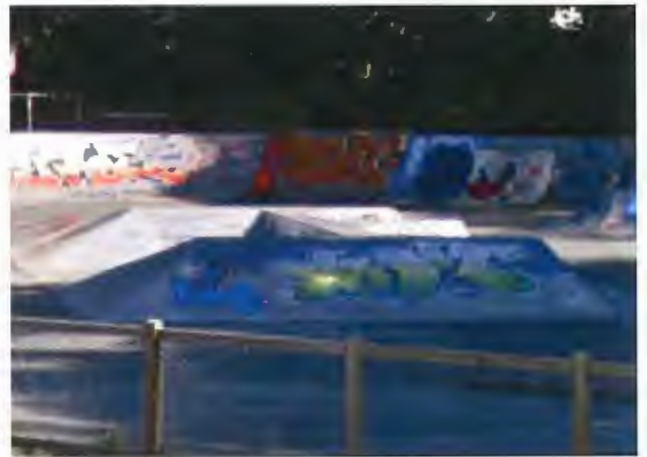
The City of Richmond's existing skateparks, complemented by the Metro Vancouver region's additional skateparks, provide both local and regional skateboarding opportunities for Richmond residents. An updated skateboard facility, including options for a covered skatepark, could meet community needs and will be considered as part of future park planning processes.



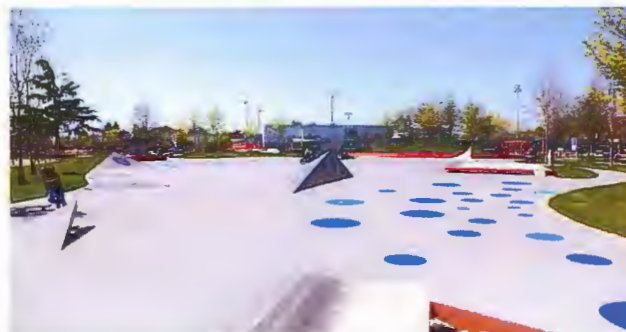
Marie Fenwick
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-244-1275)

Att. 1: River Road Skateboard Park
 2: Thompson Youth Park
 3: Garden City Park "Skate Spot"

River Road Skateboard Park



Thompson Youth Park



Garden City Park "Skate Spot"

