



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** June 29, 2015

**From:** Mike Redpath  
Senior Manager, Parks

**File:** 06-2345-20-TRIV1/Vol  
01

**Re:** Tait Riverfront Park Concept Plan

### Staff Recommendation

That the Tait Riverfront Park Concept Plan, as outlined in the staff report titled "Tait Riverfront Park Concept Plan," dated June 29, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be approved.

Mike Redpath  
Senior Manager, Parks  
(604-247-4942)

Att. 4

| REPORT CONCURRENCE                                       |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ROUTED TO:</b>  | <b>CONCURRENCE</b>   | <b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> |
| Development Applications<br>Public Art                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Reviewed by Staff Report /<br>Agenda Review Subcommittee | Initials:<br>  | Approved by CAO<br>                   |

## Staff Report

### Origin

In October 2011, City Council approved Oris Development Corporation's application to rezone 1880 No. 4 Road; and 10071, 10091, 10111, 10131, and 10311 River Drive from "Industrial Storage District (I5)" to "Comprehensive Development District (CD/209)" (RZ 07-380169). Included in the proposal was the creation of two parcels to be transferred to the City as fee simple lots for park purposes. A 5,584 square metres (1.38 acres) lot at the west edge of the site is being developed in 2015 for park purposes as part of the initial phases of development. The Central Park lot that is 12,174 square metres (3.01 acres) in size is to be developed for park purposes as part of subsequent phases of development. A concept plan for this park, now referred to as the Tait Riverfront Park, has been prepared and a public Open House was held on June 18, 2015, to gain public input towards the development and refinement of the design plan. The purpose of this report is to summarize the findings of the public consultation process, and to present the Tait Riverfront Park Concept Plan for approval.

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 #3 A Well-Planned Community:

*Adhere to effective planning and growth management practices to maintain and enhance the livability, sustainability and desirability of our City and its neighbourhoods, and to ensure the results match the intentions of our policies and bylaws.*

3.2. *A strong emphasis on physical and urban design.*

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

*Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.*

4.1. *Continued implementation of the sustainability framework.*

## **Analysis**

### **The Existing Site and Context**

The existing park site is located at 10211 River Drive (Attachment 1), and is 3.01 acres in size. It is currently vacant and awaiting development for park purposes. To the north lies the City road/dyke, and across the North Arm of the Fraser is the western extent of Mitchell/Twigg Island. To the south is River Drive, and across this street are single family houses on lots zoned a combination of “Single-Family Housing District, Subdivision Areas B, C, D” (RS1/B, RS1/C, and RS1/D). The development context includes a proposed residential project to the west, and a residential development including community child care facility adjacent the park to the east. The community child care facility is to be constructed by the developer and transferred to the City as part of the community amenity package secured through the rezoning. The design of this child care facility will be presented to Council as part of the residential development to the east.

This new park will be well integrated within the Tait neighbourhood’s existing network of trails and open spaces. From the park, site visitors can easily reach Tait School/Neighbourhood Park and the new West Park site at No. 4 Road and River Drive by cycling and walking along the dyke trail or River Drive. The Bridgeport Trail is also only a 400 metre walk from the new park property, connecting it to the City’s overall system via the Shell Road Greenway to the east, and the Garden City Greenway to the west.

### **The Concept Plan**

The concept design (Attachment 2) for the site has been inspired by its location along the edge of the Fraser River. Various elements such as paving patterns and stampings, distinctive play structures and landscape plantings will combine to emphasize the natural character of the site. The plan proposes a variety of uses and features situated within various zones, including:

#### **Open Lawn Zone**

An open lawn is to be developed on the east side of the site, where it can be used for informal activities, games and sports. It will also present a good opportunity where the occasional neighbourhood scale program or event can be staged. A walkway flanked by trees will encircle the lawn so that people can sit and picnic on its edges in shaded comfort. Some seating will be in the form of custom designed concrete wave “eddies.” A covered structure will be situated next to this space as well, so that it can provide people with shelter from the sun or rain as they participate in outdoor activities and programs.

#### **Court Zone**

A basketball/multi-use hard surface court will be located in the southwest corner of the site. The basketball court playing area will be 15.2 metres by 22.9 metres in dimensions, but the overall area of the of the court will be larger in order to maximize opportunities for other activities and programs. Concrete seating edges help enclose this space and it is proposed that they be constructed so that they also function as beginner-level skate elements.

### Play Environment Zone

A play environment in the northwest part of the park will provide a variety of elements for children. Traditional items such as swings will be combined with natural elements such as logs and driftwood, boulders and pathways that wind their way through plantings.

Opportunities to direct site drainage towards bioswales will be also explored. These features, bordered by pockets of sand, long grass, logs and native plantings, will serve to clean the water and recharge into the ground. During the dry seasons, they will also offer elements of creative play for children.

### Public Art Zone

A key feature of the park plan is the proposed inclusion of the public art piece “Water #10,” currently located at the corner of Cambie Road and River Road, along the Middle Arm dyke greenway. This stainless steel structure by artist Jun Ren was installed in Richmond as a temporary work, part of the Vancouver International Biennale 2009-2011. Standing tall at 16 metres, it would be placed atop a flat topped mound – the “Island” – which can be reached from the play area by a stepping stone pathway and by a bridge connected to the dyke.

The piece was purchased by the developer from the Vancouver Biennale in 2011 with the intent of relocating it to their Parc Riviera development within the future City-owned park, to satisfy the public art contribution condition of the rezoning (RZ 07-380169). Council supported permitting the sculpture at the Cambie Drainage Pump Station location until the site at Parc Riviera-now referred to as Tait Waterfront Park- was ready to receive the artwork.

### Circulation System

The proposed concept includes pathways that provide multiple access points from River Drive and the dyke. Walking pathways will be accessible and barrier free, and the main pathway that bisects the site will be wide enough so that service vehicles can reach the dyke when maintenance is required. Secondary pathways will connect together the various features of the park, and may be integrated with stepping stones, balance logs and river rocks along their routes to offer elements of play.

### Landscaping

A variety of trees, shrubs and grasses are proposed to be planted within the park. One goal is to establish a year round presence of trees therefore coniferous evergreens will be included within the landscape scheme. Providing shade during the summer weather will also be vital, so deciduous shade trees of various types will be strategically placed around the park. In terms of maintenance, the open lawn will be cut on a regular basis. Since a mix of aesthetics is also desirable, some grass plantings that grow long and require only periodic maintenance will also be selected. Other plantings will be used to increase biodiversity and create wildlife for habitat. The use of native plants will also be investigated.

### Next steps in Design

The details of the plan, particularly the planting layout and grading plans, will be explored and refined during the next design stage of the project.

The park lies between the dyke (proposed elevation of 4.7 metres; future elevation of 5.5 metres) and River Drive (elevation of approximately 2.4 metres). The difference of 2.3 metres (4.7 – 2.4 metres) is significant, as it presents an excellent opportunity to develop within the park an interesting series of mounds, hills, levels and grade changes, features that are mostly absent from within the City's park and open space system.

### Public Consultation Process

The public was invited to provide feedback on the concept proposal at an open house held at the R. J. Tait Elementary School gymnasium on Thursday, June 18, 2015. Approximately 600 notices were mailed to residential properties of the Tait neighbourhood area bounded by No. 4 Road and Shell Road to the west and east, the riverfront to the north, and Bridgeport Road to the south. The Open House was advertised in the local newspapers, and information was posted on the City's website. Concurrent with the Open House process, the community was also invited to view the materials and complete the questionnaire on the Let's Talk Richmond website, [www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca](http://www.LetsTalkRichmond.ca) (Attachment 3).

Fifty-five people attended the Open House session. Participants were encouraged to discuss their comments and ideas with City staff, the consultant, and the developer's representative. In addition, the attendees were asked to make comments on the design by filling out surveys and adding notes on the presentation material. A summary of the public survey results are included in this report (Attachment 4).

Interest in the process was strong and response to the park concept proposal was generally favourable.

The proposed program received support although a few ideas require consideration:

#### Car Parking/Site Access

There were several requests to provide parking on the park site. It is noted that this park is a neighbourhood park for local residents who are located within 800 metres or a twenty minute walk of the site. There will be on street parking located along River Drive for those who must drive to the park.

#### Water Play

The majority of participants supported adding a water element to the park play area. Suggestions ranged from a large splash park to something smaller in scale. Further explorations will be made in the next design stage to see how some type of water element can be incorporated within the plan.

### Washrooms and Site Safety

Safety concerns were expressed regarding lighting the park at night times. A washroom was also requested for the park. Neighbourhood parks are typically not provided with lighting or with a washroom due to cost considerations and the relatively short travel distances for park visitors. Visibility of the park will be high due to it having frontage on River Drive.

### Financial Impact

The estimated cost to construct the Tait Riverfront Park Concept Plan is \$1.2 million. Subject to Council's approval of the conceptual design, capital submissions will be considered as part of the City's five-year Capital Plan.

### Conclusion

The recommended concept plan for Tait Riverfront Park has received strong support from residents of the Tait area who attended the Open House held on June 18, 2015. Once completed, this new park will greatly enhance park opportunities for the neighbourhood community. It will function as a place for both active and passive activities, and as a gathering place for local events and programs.

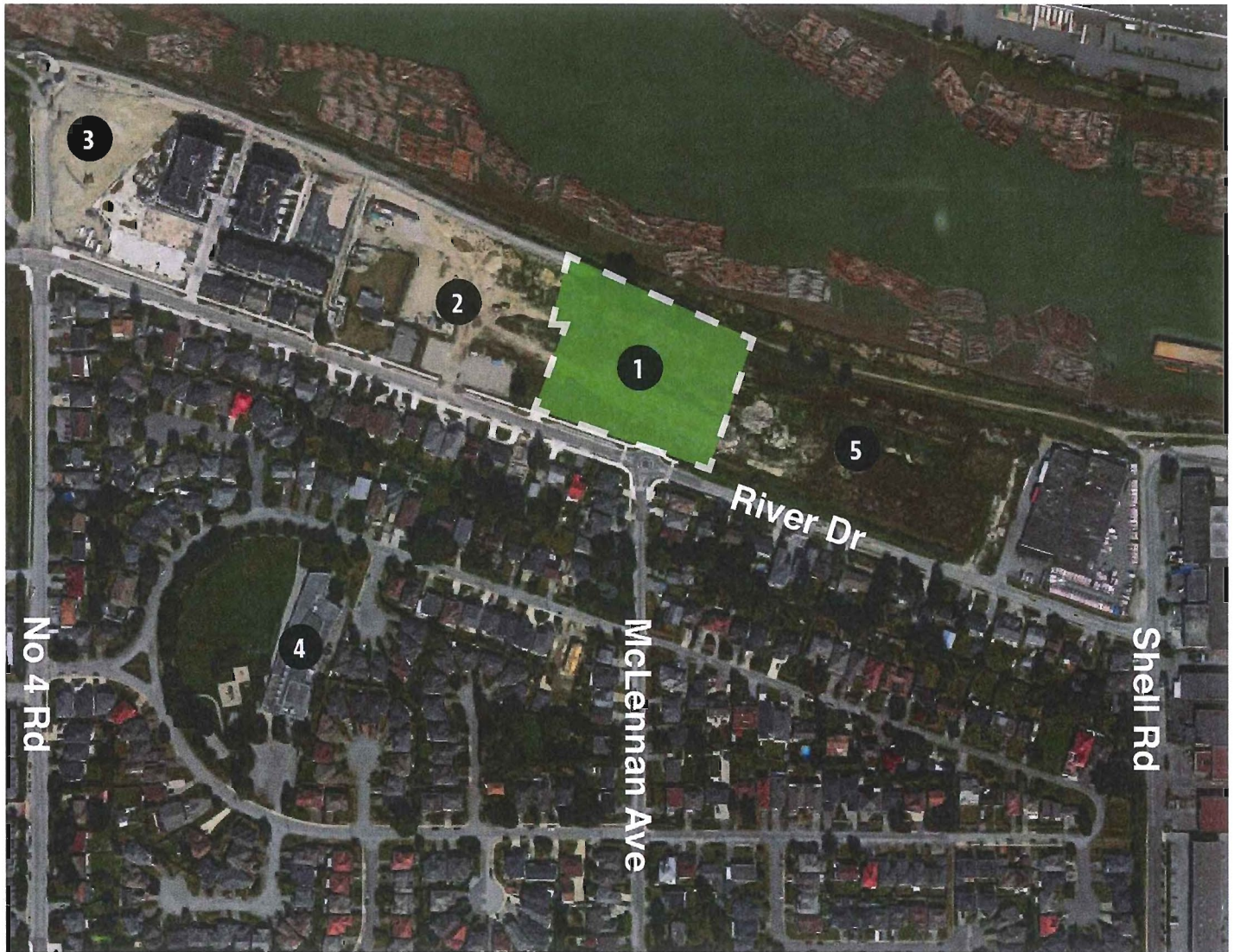


Clarence Sihoe  
Park Planner  
(604-233-3311)

- Att. 1: Site Location  
2: Park Concept Design  
3: Let's Talk Richmond – Survey Responses  
4: Public Workshop – Survey Responses



## SITE LOCATION – TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK



- 1 Tait Riverfront Park
- 2 Future Town Homes
- 3 West Park
- 4 Tait Elementary School
- 5 Future Development



## PARK CONCEPT DESIGN



TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK



## TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK LANDSCAPE IMAGES



**WALK IN THE PARK**



**LOG BRIDGE**



**PICNIC SHELTER**



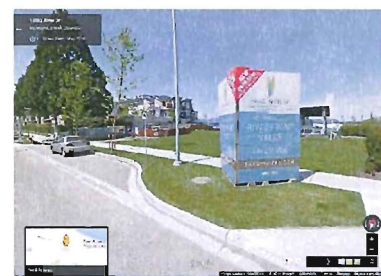
**BALANCE LOGS**



**PUBLIC ART**



**STURGEON IN THE RIVER**



**STREETSCAPE**

## TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK LANDSCAPE IMAGES



**NATIVE PLANTINGS**



**ADVENTURE PLAY**



**SHORELINE FINISH**



**TALL GRASSES**



**STEPPING STONES**



**CONCRETE WAVE  
TO DIRECT DRAINAGE**



## TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK LANDSCAPE RENDERINGS



**SPORT COURT**



**VIEW FROM ABOVE LOOKING NORTH**



**VIEW FROM ABOVE LOOKING NORTHWEST**

## TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK LANDSCAPE RENDERINGS



OPEN LAWN AREA LOOKING NORTH



LOOKING BACK TOWARDS PICNIC SHELTER



VIEW FROM ABOVE LOOKING NORTHWEST



TRAIL VIEW TO THE NORTH



## Let's Talk Richmond

# SURVEY RESPONSES

Period: **18 June 2015, 10:00 AM – 26 June 2015, 11:59 PM**

Project: Tait Riverfront Park – Concept Design Review

### 1

**Respondant Name:** SBundac

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 11:21 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

Playground and open lawn area

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I would add as many trees/plants/flowers as possible. Preferably ones native to the area

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

There should be Transit access and lots of pedestrian friendly road traffic changes made to the area.

### 2

**Respondant Name:** CJ

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 11:45 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

Driftwood, log jam, multi-use for many ages and interests.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

More benches and picnic tables, especially around the playground area. It's nice for parents to have a place to rest and put out snacks for kids while they run around. We should aim for as little lawn, that will need watering and mowing, as possible, for the future of our planet.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

It looks lovely!

**3**

**Respondant Name:** YVR-DJM

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 12:13 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

island, landscaping features, driftwood climbing structure, waterpark feature

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

hard to see from the pics

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

make sure there's enough parking!!!!

**4**

**Respondant Name:** AlexOfAnders

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 1:01 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

I like the emphasis on nature, greenery and wood structures. The pond area with an island is nice too

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

- BBQ stands or at least an ash pit - Some more seating around the park, especially on the island - Seems like there's only 3 tables planned, a few more would be nice - Places to lock bikes - Water station

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

Seems like a nice park

**5**

**Respondant Name:** kathbeau

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 2:22 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

The main thing I like about the park is the fact that there is a court area for children to play in.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I would like to see seating and picnic tables along the river. Facing the river. Lots of people walk their dogs and would like access to an area to sit. I cant recall if it is accounted for, but I would like to see a few parking space near to the picnic area so when large groups come in with coolers and BBQ's they dont have so far to walk.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

So much of high density housing doesn't provide court areas for children and teens and they end up playing in lane ways. I'm so pleased to see that this has been included. I like that it is green and provides picnic tables. Please make sure you leave platforms for recycling and garbage which is easy access for city staff to do pick up. Containers should be designed to conform with the park and not look utilitarian. There is a large grouping of bald eagles that live along the river. I would like to see that tree selection accounts for trees that will support their nesting in future years. Not sure what the foreground of the river looks like but many people walk their dogs to the river and the retrievers love going in the water to fetch sticks. The foreground area should accommodate this type of recreation.

**6**

**Respondant Name:** ultimace

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 3:32 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

walk (all kinds), court

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

no need for public art, it is hard to maintain

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

No Answer

**7**

**Respondant Name:** lefty321

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 4:07 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

natural wood structures open grass multi use court

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

remove the skateboard cement drainage and go for a more natural river rock drainage no art sculpture; stick with a more natural look

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

it would be nice to have some nets for soccer in the open field

## 8

**Respondant Name:** Denis

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 5:05 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

I have no intention of going there but that area is very depressed and I welcome the addition of a park for those residents.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

No opinion

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

No opinion, i just think any green space is a bonus for Richmond residents. i am looking forward to what will be done with the ALR land at garden city rd. I live close by and I am hoping for a community garden.

## 9

**Respondant Name:** dewhalen

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 5:29 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

open space, clear view of river

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

more walking trails

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

bus stop nearby?

## 10

**Respondant Name:** sand

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 7:56 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

It looks like there are some attempts to create a more natural environment. I think many parks are too sterile. It looks like the playground will not be another plastic atrocity. I hope it will be along the lines of allowing children a chance to explore and test their limits.



**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I would like to see lots of natural elements, -rocks to climb and sit on. I am not too sure about the large grassy area -although it is hard to get an idea of the size of it. I don't think we need more fields for sports, but it is nice to have a space large enough to play frisbee or throw a ball.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

make sure there is a bathroom and water

## 11

**Respondant Name:** Rkcga

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Responded at 18 June 2015, 8:46 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

Open area level with dyke. Playground and pathways.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

No basketball court, rather have volleyball and badminton courts. More tables and benches.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

There is no parking or sidewalk on the north side of River Drive east of McLennan, needs to be completed before park is done.

## 12

**Respondant Name:** Marie43

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Responded at 19 June 2015, 8:50 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

The varied uses for the park.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I would add some picnic tables - looks like a delightful place for a meal.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

No Answer

## 13

**Respondant Name:** JenP

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Responded at 19 June 2015, 9:52 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

Focus on natural feel - native plantings, driftwood elements, water runoff management. Feels very natural. Picnic shelter is great, basketball court and bike racks are good for local youth. Love the playground and island.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I would get rid of the art on the island and stick with natural elements. Something to encourage either play or quiet contemplation. An option would be a ring of flat-topped granite boulders, which could either be conversation seating or a play element as the users wish. I would love to see some native plantings mixed with the rough grass.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

Overall, a refreshing design.

## 14

**Respondant Name:** Anni

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Responded at 19 June 2015, 10:06 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

picnic area, open space

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

more shaded areas for picnics, seating, etc. Add water play features since it is right by the river.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

No Answer

## 15

**Respondant Name:** harvey

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Responded at 19 June 2015, 3:23 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

we like addition of a new park in our area

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

1.have a water park for kids is nbr 1 2.more picnic tables only 6 shown on drawing placed in the sun and shade 3.park benches not logs for older people to sit on placed in the shade and sun 4.park benches on the dyke ie every other dyke in richmond has them 5 swings great the climbing things at the complex not used by any kids yet

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

TRUCK TRAFFIC on river drive has to controlled prior to park opening or sooner PARKING on south side of river drive must not be allowed

**16**

**Respondant Name:** nicolewc

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Responded at 21 June 2015, 8:27 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

I like all the elements I see in the proposal, the park, court area, picnic shelter, adventure playground, shoreline, etc. I eve like the public art piece (I thought it had been purchased by a developer who's project wasn't finished yet?)

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

I didn't see anything about parking. Will parking be on the street?

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

None, it looks great!

**17**

**Respondant Name:** Gary Cullen

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Responded at 22 June 2015, 8:35 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

No Answer

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

No Answer

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

Hello! Perhaps a small plaque with a little history about the Tait family from the area? I'm the great grandson of Rober John Tait who owned the farm where the park will be and can supply you with history on the area if you like. Robert gave the farm to his oldest son William "Buck" Tait in the early 1900's.  
Thanks, Gary Cullen

18

**Respondant Name:** L. Chow

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Responded at 23 June 2015, 2:04 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

-Natural environment -Promotion of 'risky play', utilization of natural settings for the playground -Good flow and accessibility into the park for pedestrians -Open design and areas for hovering provides a good environment for social gatherings -It is accessible to all (no stairs)

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

-Incorporating a thematic bike rack or storage area to provide accessibility for bike riders -Provide sufficient shade for the playground and other sections of the park (e.g. between the court, island and playground) -Location of the park would be better suited to someplace with easy access to public transit

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

-Any form of lighting provided for evenings or will it only be natural lighting?

19

**Respondant Name:** WCC

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Responded at 24 June 2015, 8:00 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

The overall plan looks excellent and brings something for many age groups and needs so I like the concepts as a whole

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

It's unclear if the open lawn is intended to be flat, which could be used for more sporting activities or if it will be sloped, which would limit sporting activities somewhat. I would prefer it be as useful for all as possible so would recommend the open lawn be mostly flat.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

It is unclear what will be in place in terms of nighttime lighting so I would like to see how the lighting plan for the park is planned. The yellow "platform" at the end of Number 4 road, for example, is poorly lit. Several of the lights on the platform cause a great deal of glare directly down Number 4 road, to drivers heading in that direction. It also appears that some of the lighting there is upward-facing which directly adds to the light pollution in the area. Since the park is adjacent to a roadway and intersection, I would want to offer good indirect, downward-facing lighting, for the park while not adding to upward-facing light pollution or glare for nearby drivers, and others. It is also unclear if the dyke trail will be maintained as gravel or paved. I am not sure I have a preference but knowing the plan would be helpful.



## 20

**Respondant Name:** SunCloud

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Responded at 26 June 2015, 10:51 AM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

It is a park for the people and this is good.

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

Bigger is better, but development and population densification is the name of the game in Richmond.

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

Trees are good but too much dense high level vegetation and you will attract the dope smoking alcohol drinking punks in the dark after hours.

## 21

**Respondant Name:** Robyn

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Responded at 26 June 2015, 12:45 PM

**1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

the natural elements added in like stepping stones.logs.also like the riverfront is not obstructed

**2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

not sure with all the buildings going up around it how accessible it will be to people not living in the neighbourhood?

**3. I have the following additional comments regarding the proposed design of the park ...**

overall design is good, not sure if it is big enough for the amount of housing being developed though

# Public Workshop

## **SURVEY RESPONSES**

### **Concept Design Review**

Date: 7-9pm June 18, 2015

Location: Gymnasium of Robert J Tait Elementary

### **Participants**

#### **City of Richmond**

Mike Redpath

Clarence Sihoe

Mark Hosford

#### **PMG Landscape Architects**

Mary Chan Yip

#### **Oris Consulting**

Nathan Curran

### **Objective**

The concept design review was the first point of contact with the Tait Neighbourhood regarding a park design. The purpose of this stage was to present a design to the community, gather feedback and generate suggestions. Participants were encouraged to interact through an informal drop-in style discussion with city staff and consultants. In addition participants were asked to make comments on the design by filling out surveys and adding notes on the presentation material.

The feedback gathered from this event will be documented for further refinement of the final concept design.

## Presentation material

The first board was to communicate the existing site context in the Tait Neighbourhood.



The Second board was used to provide imagery of the various design elements and to key their location within the park.



The final board provided perspective images of key areas of the park. This was done to allow community members to better visualize and understand the scale of the park.



## TAIT RIVERFRONT PARK





## SUMMARY

The public open house was successful in drawing out community members of various ages. The community were generally very positive towards the addition of a new park to their area. Feedback received and suggestions were informative to progress the park design. Comments received throughout the public engagement process have been combined to form a hierarchy of decisions relating to the park program and its overall design (see below):

Based on the feedback received during the public engagement, there appears to be support for the concept as suggested.

## PARTICIPANT SUPPORT

### IMPROVED SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD USE

Many comments were very positive towards park benches that line the pathways of the park. Many comments requested additional seating for parents and elderly users who would be watching their kids play. With the park housing a basketball court there were numerous suggestions for a drinking fountain located within proximity to the court. Public washrooms were desired by many residents so that users could use the park for longer periods.

### PLAY

Large support for the play area was received by participants. The natural themed playground received many positive comments. There were also many requests to expand the size of the play area. A majority of participants showed a consistent strong level of support for a water element to the park. Suggestions ranged from a large splash park, to more natural suggestions such as a water pond for wildlife habitat, and lastly a small water feature element for kids to play with.

### TRAILS / FITNESS / CONNECTIONS

With the park being adjacent to the river many participants were enthused about the new pathways created in the park to allow access to the riverfront. There was a strong focus on further improving these connections along the dyke trail and river road.

### CAR PARKING / SITE ACCESS DIVERSE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Based on feedback from the public engagement there is constant interest in increasing the diversity of landscape characteristics throughout the park. Enhancements to the landscape were suggested to attract specific animal species and provide areas to observe habitat.

### PUBLIC ART

Mixed support was evidence for the proposed art sculpture (Water #10). Some participants did not want any large public art located within the park. Others were receptive of the art piece but would rather it be moved to a location along the park entrance on river road. This location was suggested to allow more space for the playground area, which would allow more uninterrupted play.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### CAR PARKING / SITE ACCESS

There were numerous requests to provide parking on the park site. This was seen as a way to provide access for elderly users and users located at other parts of the city. It is important to note that this park is designated as a neighbourhood park where the target users are located within a 20 minute walk of the park. There will be on street parking located along River Drive for those small groups of users who must drive to the park.

**SITE SAFETY**

Safety concerns revolved around lighting to the park at night times. Participants also suggested that lighting could prolong the use of the park past sun down. While many participants were in favour of public washrooms others were concerned that washrooms could attract unwanted and illegal activities at night. Due to the close proximity of the SkyTrain station, unwanted users were seen as a threat to the park.

## **Appendix**

The following notes were generated in the concept design review held on June 18, 2015.

## **Tait Riverfront Park – Comments June 18, 2015**

Below are a categorized list of the comments that were posted on the presentation boards and feedback forms at the Concept Design Review held on June 18, 2015:

### **1. I like the following qualities of the proposed Tait Riverfront Park ...**

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Attractive layout.
- The land looks interesting.
- Open lawn.
- General layout.

#### **IMPROVED SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD USE**

- Pedestrian connection along the dyke.
- Picnic shelter.
- Picnic area.
- Picnic spaces.
- I like the extended trail picnic areas.

#### **PLAY**

- Play area for children.
- Seems to be a good balance of open space versus play area.
- Court.
- Please make sure plantings provide loose parts for creative play (e.g., cones, nuts, branches etc.).
- I really like the stepping stones to the island. Please provide a variety of spacing (more than one path) so that children of different ages can be challenged by them.
- Nature playground.

#### **TRAILS / FITNESS / CONNECTIONS**

- Well planned walkways.
- Access to the waterfront.
- Trails for kids to run along and climb.
- Access to water.
- The walking dyke.
- Sturgeon concrete is great, perhaps another one could be added on the east side I liked the nature playground – great for kids.

#### **DIVERSE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

- Look of trees.
- Native plantings to encourage use by wildlife.
- Natural looking.
- The multi-use lawn area.
- Activity field, open lawn, and court areas.
- Lots of trees, greenery, etc.
- Open grass area.
- The green space.
- The nature park.
- Natural play areas – balance logs, stepping stones, etc.
- Large open space.

## **PUBLIC ART**

- Like the sculpture.
- The art.

## **SPORT**

- The court would be very useful.
- Basketball court.

## **2. If I could, I would change the following things about the park ...**

### **IMPROVED SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD USE**

- Lots of benches for seniors that are comfortable and not just logs and boulders.
- No washrooms, please add.
- No art piece please.
- Add more benches.
- Install water fountain.
- Toilets? Elderly and children need something.
- Public washroom.
- Need washrooms at park.
- Water features needed.
- More seating.
- Water fountain by the court for drinking water.
- More benches for parents, elderly.
- Put in bathroom.
- No washroom??? Pump house bathroom not open.
- Needs washrooms.
- Need bike racks for locking bikes.
- Needs water fountains.
- Public washrooms would be desirable.
- More seating areas.
- Request for washrooms seem redundant with these provided in Park West.

## **PLAY**

- Please add water splash park for children.
- Pretend stream needs shallow water for children to play in.
- Need real water for children to play in.
- Water features like streams / pond is good (fountain too noisy).
- A water splash park would be nice.
- Always thought that there was a water feature planned originally a stream or a pond of some sort. Needs a water feature rather than gravel/sand!! Kids have a blast in running water but even a pond would be really pretty.
- Interactive water feature (similar to Garden City Park).
- More play areas for young children.
- Setup island area to be a waterpark.
- Playground looks bland compared to other parks in Richmond.
- Playground should double in size (could reduce size of sculpture island).
- More things for kids to play on.
- Add water park for children.
- Instead of playground, change to waterpark for kids.
- Swing set/slide.
- A splash park would be a good addition.

- Horseshoes.

#### **TRAILS / FITNESS / CONNECTIONS**

- Pedestrian connection along the dyke.
- Would like to see ditch cover from casino to No 4 road.
- Sidewalk is needed along River Drive from No 4 to casino.
- Access to the riverfront.
- Continue the dyke trail to SkyTrain bridge.
- No 4 Road to SkyTrain walkway is non-existent.
- It would be nice to connect park to SkyTrain access and the dyke trail.
- Walkway from No. 4 Road to SkyTrain needs a path along River Drive.
- I am curious about connections to other green spaces along the dyke. Are there plans to provide a walking connection to the SkyTrain?

#### **CAR PARKING / SITE ACCESS**

- No parking! Please add.
- Parking for food trucks to set up in the summer.
- Add Parking.
- Add Parking.
- No dogs should be allowed.
- Are dogs to be allowed if they behave and their owners pick up?
- Needs parking.
- What will the parks policy be for dogs (on leash, off leash, no dogs?)
- I would support no dogs so that children can play freely.
- What about parking? Don't want to clog up River Drive with parked cars.

#### **DIVERSE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

- Flowers please not just grasses shrubs.
- Encourage enhancements to provide specific bird habitats (nesting wall for swallows, housing for martins).
- No gravel or art in the "island."
- Possible water feature? For summer - not spray park but river?
- I would make the park bigger if at all possible.
- Park seems small considering the population it will serve.
- Add water stream.
- Tree frogs are an important part of neighbourhood's sound scape. It would be great to provide habitat for them.
- A water feature.... Not a water park!
- Too much open space not enough play area.
- Consider an area that focuses on the natural environment so that native birds and frogs can take refuge.
- Explanatory information boards about the wildlife so that children can learn about and appreciate the natural elements of the area.
- Sturgeon images could also use other imagery such as eagles, pheasants, herons.
- I have heard comments to see a splash park but would prefer a more natural water element that allows water play. Similar to Garden City but would prefer more natural than that.

#### **SITE SAFETY**

- What types of security measures will be in place to ensure safety?
- Night lights! For safety concern.
- Add light to dyke trail.
- I am concerned about the crossing of River Road. Many trucks pass by this round-about and don't know the rules (could be dangerous for kids).

- Being so close to the Canada Line I am concerned about the park being used by non-neighbourhood residents as a place to sleep, etc.
- Need good lighting.
- Safety measure to ensure no vandalism/graffiti.
- Prefer to have no washrooms to ensure park stays clean and isn't a place for people to hide/sleep.
- Prefer not to have washrooms (park might be used by non-residents for illegal activities with the SkyTrain so close).

#### **PUBLIC ART**

- Do not want large metal art piece.
- Leave so called "island" open. Stick art at entrance somewhere out of the way.
- Move public art piece towards the south entrance keep island area for play area.
- Move art feature to park entrance.
- Move the art feature to the south end entrance away from children's play area.
- Move public art to entry, not in the middle of everything.
- Do not like the proposed sculpture for island.
- I don't think flags at the entrance match the feel of the park.
- I'm lukewarm at best about moving the public art sculpture to the neighbourhood.

#### **SPORT**

- Reduce open space.
- Provide tennis court.
- I don't feel the court area is necessary. There is similar available at Tait School. I would like to see permanent water in the park, like a pond. Somewhere for children to catch minnows and tadpoles.
- Badminton/volleyball?