



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee      **Date:** January 20, 2021

**From:** Todd Gross, Director, Parks Services      **File:** 06-2345-20-STEV2/Vol 01

**Re:** **Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps**

### Staff Recommendation

That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Project proceed to detailed design and costing, as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps,” dated January 20, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, and that capital requests for implementation be submitted during the annual capital budget process.

Todd Gross  
 Director, Parks Services  
 (604-247-4942)

Att. 2

| REPORT CONCURRENCE                |                                     |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ROUTED TO:</b>                 | <b>CONCURRENCE</b>                  | <b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> |
| Community Recreation Services     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Project Development               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| Financial Planning and Analysis   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                       |
| <b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b> | <b>INITIALS:</b><br>                | <b>APPROVED BY CAO</b><br>            |

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the June 12, 2017, Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted;

*“That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be coordinated with the planning for the Steveston Community Facility Replacement Project and at the conclusion of that planning process, staff bring forward a report outlining the next steps for renewal of the playground.”*

The purpose of this report is to outline the next steps for the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

*Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.*

*1.2 Future-proof and maintain city infrastructure to keep the community safe.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

*4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.*

*4.3 Encourage wellness and connection to nature through a network of open spaces.*

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

*Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.*

*8.2 Ensure citizens are well-informed with timely, accurate and easily accessible communication using a variety of methods and tools.*

### Analysis

#### Background

Steveston Community Park is a thirty-acre recreational, cultural and community-oriented site located in the Steveston area. It is designated as a Community Park, however, due to its prominent location within Steveston Village, and the multiple amenities it contains, it attracts

visitors and tourists from across Richmond and beyond. Steveston Community Park supports multiple functions including active sport use, informal community use, and hosts a variety of facilities, attractions, and events such as the Steveston Community Centre, Steveston Branch Library, Steveston Interurban Tram, Martial Arts Centre and Steveston Salmon Festival.

Due to the Steveston Community Park playground's highly accessible and visible location within Steveston Village near the intersection of No.1 Road and Moncton Street, it is very popular and functions as a destination playground.

#### Current Playground Condition

The most recent extensive upgrade to the Steveston Community Park playground took place in 2003 and included significant expansion of its footprint, creation of separate preschool and school-aged play areas and upgrades to existing structures, such as the iconic trawler.

The adjacent water park was built in 2006 and in 2014 the highly popular slide mound was reconstructed.

While all of the equipment and surfacing in the Steveston Community Park playground meet current safety standards as per the City's maintenance and inspection program, the majority of the playground areas are reaching the end of their life cycle and do not meet today's inclusive accessibility standards. Community users have also voiced a desire for upgraded playground equipment and surfacing.

#### Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process

Initiated by a letter received in November 2014 from the Steveston Community Society expressing an interest in making a contribution towards the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground, staff led a stakeholder and public engagement process from February to September 2016.

The engagement process included two phases.

The first phase focused on learning about challenges and opportunities related to the existing playground. This phase included two design workshops with children attending spring break camps at the Steveston Community Centre, a public open house held near the playground, and online engagement via LetsTalkRichmond. Based on the results from the first phase, a set of design guidelines and playground concept options were developed.

The phase two engagement focused on gaining feedback on the design guidelines and playground concept options. This phase included a public open house held on July 1, 2016, near the existing playground as part of the Steveston Salmon Festival, and online engagement via LetsTalkRichmond. Based on the input received during the phase two engagement process, a Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan was developed.

The Steveston Community Society and the Rick Hansen Foundation were consulted throughout the engagement and playground concept plan development process.

Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan

The Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan (Attachment 1) includes the favoured elements from each of the concept plan options presented during the phase two engagement process, and addresses general comments and concerns received from the community. It features distinct adventure play areas for all age groups and provides enhanced seating and picnic areas for families and adults.

Each playground area draws inspiration from Steveston Village’s history. For example, a farm village, fisherman’s wharf and salmon run adventure themed play areas are included. The concept plan also has a focus on inclusive play for all children and includes elements that are wheelchair accessible. The concept plan will provide the basis for detailed design and costing.

The concept plan was presented to, and received support from the Steveston Community Society at their regularly scheduled board meeting on September 20, 2016.

The following table outlines the key dates and activities from the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process to date.

Table 1: Key Dates and Activities from the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Process

| Date                    | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 2014           | Letter received by the Senior Manager, Parks, from the Steveston Community Society expressing an interest to make a contribution towards the renewal of the Steveston Community Park playground.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| February 10, 2015       | Council meeting at which the following resolution was adopted:<br><i>That staff commence a park planning process for the renewal of the playground located in Steveston Community Park as outlined in the staff report titled ‘Steveston Community Society Contribution to Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal,’ dated January 9, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks.</i>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| February-September 2016 | Public and stakeholder engagement and development of a Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| June 12, 2017           | Council meeting at which the following resolution was adopted:<br><i>That the Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan as detailed in the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be coordinated with the planning for the Steveston Community Facility Replacement Project and at the conclusion of that planning process, staff bring forward a report outlining the next steps for renewal of the playground.</i> |
| February 2020           | Presentation to Council of the staff report titled “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Next Steps”, dated January 20, 2020, from the Director, Parks Services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

A detailed overview of the community engagement process and results, as well as the resulting Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan is included in the staff

report titled, “Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan,” dated May 9, 2017, from the Senior Manager, Parks.

Advancement of the Steveston Community Park playground renewal process was put on hold while options for the location of the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library were being analyzed to ensure co-ordination between the two projects.

#### Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement Project

The Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement project is now in the Concept Design stage since Council’s recent approval of the recommended site.

At the December 15, 2020 Council meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

*“That the Site 3 option as described on Page 6 in the staff report titled, “Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement – Site Selection,” dated November 30, 2020, from the Director, Facilities and Project Development and the Director, Recreation and Sport Services be approved.”*

Site 3 is located between the Martial Arts Centre and southeast baseball diamond, and encompasses the surface parking along Moncton Street. The supported site for the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library does not conflict with the location of the Steveston Community Park Playground Preferred Concept Plan, which is generally in the same area as the existing playground (refer to Attachment 2). It is worth noting that a new standalone washroom facility located near the playground will be required, as per Vancouver Coastal Health, to service the existing water spray park, before the existing community centre is decommissioned.

The Steveston Community Park playground renewal process can now advance to detailed design and costing without concern of impacts from the Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Replacement Project. Design of the washroom facility will take place at the same time as the detailed design process for the playground.

Staff will continue to co-ordinate the Steveston Community Park playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library projects to ensure that safe and direct pathway connections are provided between the future playground and community centre and branch library facility.

#### Next Steps

The next step in advancing the Steveston Community Park playground renewal process is detailed design and costing. Based on the preferred playground concept plan, staff will develop a request for proposals to engage a qualified team of professionals to provide detailed design and costing services.

Staff will oversee and guide the detailed design and costing process to ensure that the playground design meets current Canadian Standards Association’s guidelines for children’s playspaces and

equipment, and is reflective of community and stakeholder feedback. Staff will continue to involve and update the Steveston Community Society as the detailed design process progresses.

Once the detailed design and costing is complete, staff will submit capital requests for playground renewal implementation and commensurate operating budget impacts for Council consideration as part of the five-year capital planning process.

To minimize disruption to playground users, implementation of the playground will be scheduled outside of peak months for playground use (June to August) and/or phased so that portions of the playground will remain open and accessible to the public throughout construction. A communications strategy will be developed and employed during playground renewal implementation to keep the public informed and up-to-date on the construction process.

The following table outlines the overview of Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal next steps.

**Table 2: Overview of Next Steps**

| Tentative Dates      | Activity                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Winter – Spring 2021 | Procurement process for playground renewal detailed design and costing services.                              |
| Spring-Fall 2021     | Development of detailed design and costing.                                                                   |
| Fall 2021            | Preparation of five-year capital requests for implementation of playground renewal for Council consideration. |
| Winter-Spring 2022   | Procurement process for playground renewal implementation.                                                    |
| Spring 2022          | Start of playground renewal construction.                                                                     |

### **Financial Impact**

Consultant services for detailed design and costing for Steveston Community Park playground renewal will be approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. The Steveston Community Society has offered, as outlined in the staff report to Council titled “Steveston Community Society Contribution to Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal,” dated January 9, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks, to contribute 50 per cent of the detailed playground design costs up to \$40,000. The Society’s offer was reconfirmed at its meeting held on January 5, 2021. With the Steveston Community Society’s contribution, the City’s portion of funding for detailed design and costing services will be \$40,000 to \$60,000. Adequate funding is available in the Parks Advanced Planning and Design 2017 capital budget account, which was approved by Council as part of the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2017-2021).

## Conclusion

The Steveston Community Park playground renewal process to date has provided an opportunity for comprehensive community engagement towards development of an overall playground renewal concept plan. Now that a location has been confirmed for the future Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library that does not pose any conflicts with the Steveston Community Park Playground Preferred Concept Plan, the playground renewal process can advance to detailed design and costing. Staff will continue to co-ordinate the community centre and branch library facility and playground renewal projects to ensure that strong connections are provided between the two facilities. Staff will continue to involve key stakeholder groups and develop a communications strategy to keep the public informed with up-to-date information on the progression of the playground renewal process.



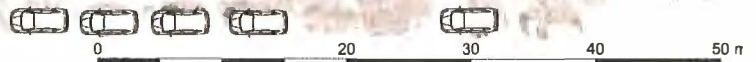
Miriam Plishka, BCSLA, CSLA  
Park Planner  
(604-233-3310)

- Att. 1: Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan
- Att. 2: Steveston Community Park Playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Context Plan

Steveston Community Park Playground Renewal Preferred Concept Plan



MONOTON STREET



**LEGEND**

- |                                                              |                                                                                                    |                                                     |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 SAND PLAY AREA WITH WATER TROUGH                          | 11 SAUCER SWING                                                                                    | 29 WIDENED BOARDWALK                                | 39 PIER BALANCING LOGS           |
| 02 TRAIN STATION WITH SLIDE                                  | 12 RIVER HARBOUR PATTERN IN RUBBERIZED SURFACING - SLOPING DOWN TO ENGINEERED WOOD FIBRE SURFACING | 30 HANG OUT HAMMOCK                                 | 40 ACCESSIBLE RAMP               |
| 03 FARM VILLAGE WITH PLAY PANELS                             | 13 FISHING BOAT WITH CLIMBING NET                                                                  | 31 SLOPED BOARDWALK                                 | 31 BIG SWINGS                    |
| 04 RUBBERIZED SURFACE WITH HISTORIC RICHMOND FARM PATTERNING | 14 IN GROUND TRAMPOLINE                                                                            | 32 SHIP WRECK LOG CLIMBER WITH NETS AND MONKEY BARS | 32 ZIPLINE                       |
| 05 BRIDGE CROSSING                                           | 15 ROTATING RING                                                                                   | 33 MOUND AND BIG TUBE SLIDE                         | 33 WIDENED ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY    |
| 06 TODDLER SWINGS                                            | 16 SPICA SPINNER                                                                                   | 34 WIND SOCKS                                       | 34 ASPHALT PATHWAY               |
| 07 TEETER TOTTER                                             | 17 PLAY CIRCUIT                                                                                    | 35 BRIDGE                                           | 35 SHRUB PLANTING                |
| 08 TRAIN                                                     | 18 ENGINEERED WOOD FIBRE SURFACING                                                                 | 36 CROW'S NEST STRUCTURE                            | 36 TALL GRASS PLANTING           |
| 09 TRAIN TRACK PATTERN IN RUBBERIZED SURFACING               | 19 NET BASKET SPINNER                                                                              | 37 LOG RAFT ADVENTURE PLAY                          | 37 ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES        |
| 10 ACCESSIBLE BOARDWALK - FLUSH WITH ADJACENT SURFACING      |                                                                                                    | 38 SOCKEYE SALMON CLIMBERS / SEAT ELEMENTS          | 38 LAWN AREAS WITH PICNIC TABLES |



Steveston Community Park Playground and Steveston Community Centre and Branch Library Context Plan

