## Victoria West Park Improvements Engagement Plan

Governance and Priorities Committee: June 4, 2015



## Report Purpose

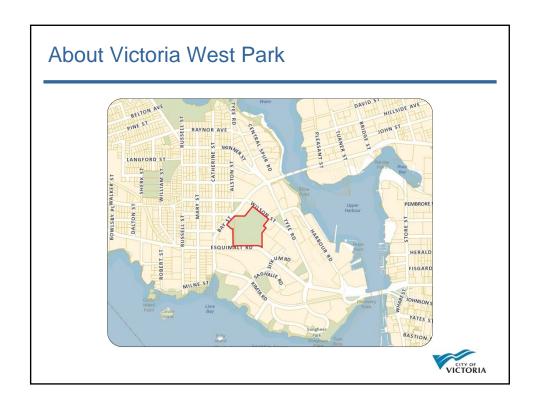
 To seek Council approval of the proposed engagement strategy for Victoria West Park to inform the creation of a park improvement plan.

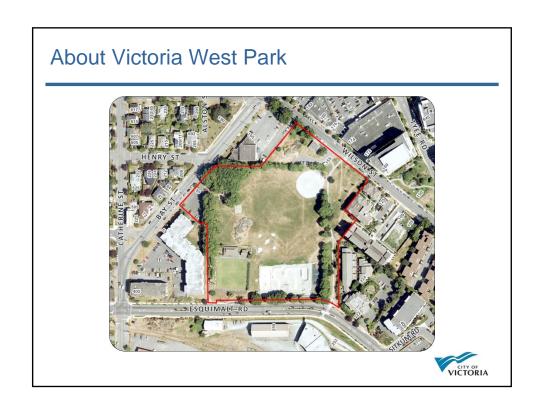












### Existing Park Facilities - Sports Fields

- The ball diamonds are used daily on weekdays and sporadically on weekends, and serve slo-pitch teams from across Greater Victoria.
- The soccer pitch is not currently used due to field condition and grade of the land.







#### Existing Park Facilities - Lawn Bowling

 The lawn bowling area is leased to the Vic West Lawn Bowling Club which has approximately 75 members.





# Existing Park Facilities – Skate Park

- Only City operated skate park in Victoria.
- Heavily used by both skateboarders and BMX riders.
- Oldest portion requires resurfacing.







#### Existing Park Facilities - Basketball Court

• Basketball court is used almost daily in nice weather.





# Existing Park Facilities – Playground

- Playground includes a swing set and play structure.
- Equipment is aging and requires replacement.







#### Existing Park Facilities - Dog Area

- One of 12 leash-optional areas in Victoria.
- · Not currently fenced





### **Existing Park Facilities**

- Two parking areas
- One public washroom facility







#### Park Improvement Plan

Key factors driving the need for park improvements include:

- · The age and condition of playground equipment
- The condition of the beginner portion of skate park
- · Usage of the leash-optional area
- · Current limited use of the sports field for some activities
- Increased density in the neighbourhood as a result of multi-story condominium development.



#### **Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements**

#### Phase One - Preliminary Engagement (June - July 2015)

What elements are currently enjoyed and what could be improved.

- Engage the Vic West Community Association
- · Ideas Board placed in the park
- Online Survey
- Community Design Picnic (July 7th)





#### **Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements**

Outreach will include:

- Neighbourhood mail drop
- Print advertising
- Website and social media









#### **Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements**

- Signs posted near main access points for the park
- Participation in community events
  - Vic West Street Fest (June 7th)
  - Skate park competition (June 13th)





#### **Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements**

#### Phase Two – Closing the Loop (September – October 2015)

Park improvement concepts will be shared and refined with the public in September to ensure they reflect the needs and interests of the community through:

- Public Open House (September 2015)
- Online Survey





### **Budget and Timelines**

- Consultation and design costs of \$50,000 for Victoria West Park improvements were approved in the 2015 Financial Plan.
- All feedback and final design recommendations for Victoria West park will be presented to Council in October 2015 for consideration.
- Park construction costs were not included in the Financial Plan as they will be determined through the design process and informed by the results of public engagement.
- The 2016 Financial Plan will include a capital budget request for proposed improvements.



#### Recommendation

 That Council endorse the proposed engagement strategy for Victoria West Park.

