

# Victoria West Park Improvements Engagement Plan

Governance and Priorities Committee: June 4, 2015



## Report Purpose

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



## About Victoria West Park

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## Existing Park Facilities - Sports Fields

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- 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

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



## Existing Park Facilities – Skate Park

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



## Existing Park Facilities – Basketball Court

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- Basketball court is used almost daily in nice weather.



## Existing Park Facilities – Playground

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



## Existing Park Facilities – Dog Area

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



## Existing Park Facilities

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- Two parking areas
- One public washroom facility



## Park Improvement Plan

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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 7<sup>th</sup>)



## Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements

Outreach will include:

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



## Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements

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



## Engaging Citizens in Park Improvements

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### **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

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- 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

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

