

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN: PHASE 1**
PURPOSE: To inform Council of the upcoming work on the spatial program plan and the community engagement for Phase 1 of the Central Park Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Central Park Master Plan: Phase 1” dated 2024 April 29, 2024, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

This Plan aligns with the following City plans and policies: Metrotown Downtown Plan (2017), Corporate Strategic Plan (2017), Central Park Management Plan (2009), Climate Action Framework (2019), Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016), Connecting Burnaby – Burnaby Transportation Plan (2021), Central Park Pond Redevelopment Study (2023), and the Swangard Stadium Revitalization Study (2023).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The goal of the Central Park Master Plan (CPMP) is to provide a vision and principles to guide development of the park over the next decades. Building on the Management Plan (2009) for the park, it will include current state analysis, literature review of trends and best practices, and public consultation to seek input from residents regarding their current use and future desires for the park. The CPMP will be a practical document that will outline a phased approach to multi-year park enhancement strategy that will provide clarity and certainty to the protection and improvements of this beloved community amenity.

Given the size of the park, the ongoing densification of Metrotown and associated recreation pressures, and the need for additional specialized community event space to host cultural gatherings, it is proposed that the Central Park Master Plan be developed in two Phases. Phase 1 will cover the planning for the urban edge of Central Park, referred to as “The Triangle”, located at Kingsway and Patterson Avenue. The future Phase 2 will cover the planning for the remainder of Central Park. The two planning phases will ultimately be consolidated into a single final CPMP document with a single accompanying implementation plan.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Central Park has facilities for a range of users, a forested setting for connection to nature, and transportation connectivity to the community and region through the Skytrain, Kingsway, and cycling network. The City of Burnaby is developing a master plan for Central Park in two phases to guide future improvements and investments in the beloved park with diverse spaces and amenities. This approach will expedite the delivery of needed amenities in Phase 1, allowing them to move into construction as soon as 2025. The first phase of the CPMP is focused on creating a welcoming and vibrant gateway that defines an important urban edge of Central Park in “The Triangle” at Kingsway and Patterson. This space will be an important community recreation and culture space, and a critical node along the BC Parkway linear park with improved access and connections to Patterson Station, Metrotown neighbourhood, and the city as a whole. **Attachment 1** provides addition visual information and details on proposed Phase 1 work.

3.1 PHASE 1: PLANNING PROCESS

The Phase 1 of the CPMP is proposed to follow four stages:

- Stage 1 - Project Startup, Survey, Site Analysis (Completed)
- Stage 2 - Public Consultation & Space Program Layout (Spring/Summer 2024)
- Stage 3 - Design and Concept Plan Approval (Fall/Winter 2024)
- Stage 4 - Construction of Proposed Improvement (2025/26)

Phase 1 of the CPMP is designed to be lean and focused on the delivery of needed community amenities. The public consultation for this work is planned for early summer 2024 and will include an Open House event, pop-up style events on site, and an online public survey. This planning work will be closely aligned to complement the planning work taking place around the same time to plan for the BC Parkway linear park, and the exciting Parkway Alive initiatives scheduled for 2024. Special efforts will also be given during this portion of the work to engage and listen to current space users.

Phase 2 of the CPMP is anticipated to commence in 2025. The Phase 2 planning process will have several stages of its own, and that process is anticipated to be more complex and comprehensive as it covers a larger and more diverse section of the park, including major facilities such as Swangard Stadium and Central Park Outdoor Pool. Given this, Phase 2 is anticipated to require more time to complete, however work is anticipated to overlap with the development stage of Phase 1 improvements.

3.2 PHASE 1: PROPOSED SPACE PROGRAM

The preliminary space program and design considerations include the following elements (Attachment 1):

- **Destination Playground:** One-of-a-kind amenity to provide high-quality play spaces for all ages and abilities.

- **Festival Space & Noise Management:** Event performance and sounds directed away from adjacent buildings.
- **Community Plazas & Washroom/Concession Building:** To support both the destination playground, community events, and general use of the park.
- **Central Open Space** - Easily accessible and visible location reserved for community events and flexible year-round leisure use.
- **Visibility & Safety** - Sightlines and safety considerations to be prioritized.
- **Site Entry & Accessibility** - Improved site entrance, access to Patterson Station, and connectivity with BC Parkway and the popular Central Park Perimeter Trail Loop.
- **Protected Trees and Historical Features** - Careful planning and design around existing trees and historical features which will not be impacted.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The communication plan for the Phase 1 of the CPMP has been developed and the community engagement efforts are currently in early implementation stages. Outreach to the public will include a project webpage, and promotion of various engagement opportunities. At the April 16, 2024 Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee meeting, staff provided a presentation and sought additional feedback which will be incorporated into the Phase 1 plans.

The public consultation for this work is planned for early summer 2024 and will include an Open House event, pop-up style events on site, and an online public survey. Extra efforts will be made to engage and listen to existing users, and to seek feedback from children and youth on the design of the play space. This planning work will be closely aligned to complement the planning work taking place around the same time to plan for the BC Parkway linear park, and the existing Parkway Alive initiatives scheduled for 2024.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The planning work for Phase 1 of the CPMP is fully funded in the 2024-2028 Financial Plan. No additional funds are required for the planning efforts. Capital costs of these proposed improvements will be outlined in subsequent reports to Council and integrated into future year Capital Plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Presentation Central Park Master Plan: Phase 1

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Angela Zhuo, Senior Planner PRC, and reviewed by Heather Edwards, Manager Parks Planning Design and Development; Andre Isakov, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture Planning; Steve Bruneau, Director Parks; Emmaline Hill, Director Cultural Services; Bob Farahani, Director PRC Project Management; Johannes Schuman, Director Development and Urban Design.