

Stanley Park Redevelopment Plan – Sounding Board Summary

There were 1,100 comments collected from the Sounding Boards installed in Stanley Park over the 10 week period, March 12 – May 21, 2013. Comments were collected twice a week and the Sounding Boards were moved to four different locations to ensure good coverage within the park.

The following is summary of feedback received:

- 129 people love the park and want it to be left as is and 18 more people stated that money would be better spent on maintenance and park cleanup (including more garbage cans, recycle bins, snow removal, lighting, repairs / improvement of existing facilities).
- 108 people were in support of keeping the pool but almost all of the comments included requests for updates, renovations, additional areas surrounding the pool (cabanas, shaded areas, splash pads, dive tank, restaurant / concession, water slides, hot tub), and repairs. There were a few comments to remove the pool due to its only being used two months out of the year.
- There were 101 people requesting improvements to the washroom facilities: additional facilities, open year round, well lit, outhouses / porta-potties, relocation / addition of washrooms to more populated areas of the park.
- 94 comments were received regarding the pathways being a definite must have for the park. A common theme was for widening, splitting or adding more pathways to accommodate bikers and pedestrians in harmonious use at various speeds. There were also many comments requesting water drinking fountains to be added along the path. Several comments were to improve / repair portions of the pathways; such as, bridges, lighting, drainage, etc.
- 78 people requested the addition of a café to Stanley Park (for example: Starbucks, restaurant, concession stand, juice bar, food trucks, ice cream stand, etc.)
- There were several special interests submitted also. These include: basketball courts, a launch area for rafters, a roller coaster, rugby posts, soccer goals/nets , trampolines, Frisbee Golf Course, outdoor fitness equipment / stations, 400m running track, beach volleyball, aquacize, tetherball, adult swim lanes, Ultimate Frisbee, ball hockey nets, a zipline, canoe rentals, petting zoo, long board track, skate park, yoga and zumba classes, and cricket.
- There were 61 comments to increase / enhance the picnic areas and benches throughout the park and several requests to improve the playgrounds with several requests to have the tire bits to be replaced with pebbles to provide cleaner play areas that do not smell bad. There were many requests for playgrounds for older children and adults. About 1/3 of the comments suggested increasing the number of fire /barbeque pits.

- 50 people commented on enforcing on-leash throughout the entire park. These comments mostly included requests for more enforcement of the laws surrounding cleaning up after dogs and installing bag dispensers and garbage cans to encourage more cleanups.
- 45 comments came in to keep the park as natural as possible: increase the green space by removing maintenance yard and buildings and planting more trees. There were many comments to keep it simple and not to use pesticides.
- There were 39 requests to have Bylaw services present in the park to control and monitor security, misuse of the park, alcohol, animal control, etc.
- 32 people commented on enjoying the community gardens with several requesting more benches to further enjoy them. Many of the requests asked for more flowers to be added throughout the park. One person was opposed to the community garden.
- 27 people are opposed to the lawn bowling expansion, requesting alternate public use for the area verses restricting the area for private use. Most comments stated a lack of use of the lawn bowling area.
- There were 25 comments requesting more festivals and an increased amount of community events (yoga in the park, local farmers market, fitness boot camps, etc.)
- 21 comments came in to make the park an off-leash area or fence off an area of the park to be designated as an “off-leash” for dogs.
- 19 people were in favor of noise control by reducing the number of “Big Special Events” that use amplified sound.
- 17 comments came in regarding increased signage throughout the park (historical, distance markers for runners, park use and etiquette, displays of public art).
- 15 people love the skating areas and requested more rink space, including boards and/or nets for hockey.
- There were 14 comments strongly in support of keeping and improving the tennis courts. These comments included expansion, improved / repaired night-time lighting (majority) and several mentions of these courts being the best public courts throughout the entire city.
- 13 people commented on parking (8 to increase parking space and 5 to limit parking space). The common theme to all parking comments was to encourage alternate methods of transportation to the park. There were a couple comments regarding limiting parking times.