



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: July 23, 2024  
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Parks Division  
Subject: Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement Summary

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### Purpose

To inform Council regarding the Youth Open House hosted for the Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park Master Plans, Trail Network Plan and Parkland Strategy and feedback received.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT the report dated July 23, 2024, from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement Summary be received for information.**

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### Background

Staff received Council direction to conduct a youth focused engagement for the Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park Master Plans. As a result of the temporary pause on the Official Community Plan and associated engagement activities, as well as the project schedule to complete the Park Master Plans, the timing does not support the integration of the Park Master Plans into the youth focused engagement efforts for the Official Community Plan. Staff have identified an alternative approach that combines the following projects in one youth focused engagement session: Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park Master Plans, Parkland Strategy, and the Trail Network Plan. This will provide the opportunity to engage on a number of relevant parks planning topics and to maximize efficiency.

At the Finance Committee meeting held on April 16, 2024, Council considered a report dated April 16, 2024, from the Community Services Department – Parks Division regarding the proposed Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement and approved the associated funding request.

### Discussion

The Youth Open House targeted middle and high school aged youth and was promoted in the following ways:

- emails to the two Middle Schools and High Schools, School District 43, youth recreation and sports programs;
- introduction of the event at the Youth Focus Committee Meeting on May 8, 2024;
- an event webpage on the City's website; and
- a media release and advertisement through social media.

The Youth Open House was hosted on May 31, 2024, from 5:30-8pm at the Recreation Complex. There were five stations designed to facilitate a number of interactive activities to gain input from youth, these include:

- floor map of all parks and trails in the City for participants to identify their schools, frequently visited parks and trails;
- map of all parks and amenities in the City for participants to tell us their favorite amenities and brainstorm ideas for new park spaces;
- designing one's dream park with park amenity tiles;
- designing the youth zone at Rocky Point Park; and
- spin wheel with trivia and feedback questions regarding parks and trails.

Over 50 youth attended the event with most participants engaging in all five activities. A summary of the feedback is documented in the Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement Summary, prepared by MODUS and attached for Council's review (**Attachment 1**).

The collected feedback will be used to inform park planning projects in the following ways:

- **Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park Master Plans:**  
Several stations at the event gathered feedback that will guide the Rocky Point Park and Old Orchard Park Master Plans. General input on what participants felt was missing in the park system and from the Dream Park activity suggests that additional play features for older youth, relaxing places, and areas for sports would be welcome additions. Participants also emphasized the importance of pools in parks and the priority that youth place on bike facilities.

Input from the Rocky Point Park Youth Zone activity will be reviewed alongside the technical analysis for the detailed design of the youth zone, which will be a future project following Council adoption of the Park Master Plan. Top active features identified include a skate park, parkour, basketball, soccer, and beach volleyball. The responses also strongly indicated the importance of including trees in the youth zone, showing a clear preference for a green and shady area that is not only fun and active but also comfortable and relaxing.

- **Trail Network Plan:**  
Feedback about the participants' favourite trails and what they like about them suggests trails provide important connections to community amenities, opportunities to connect with nature and relax, and opportunities to be active. Those preferences will be considered in the Trail Network Plan's recommendations to maintain and expand the trail network. Specifically, the plan will seek to connect community amenities like

schools and community centres that lack connections to the trail network. The plan will also identify opportunities to create more trail connections between neighbourhoods so that youth can use trails to travel between their homes, schools, and amenities like parks and community centres. The Trail Network Plan will also seek to provide more opportunities for youth and other community members to be physically active and connect with nature on trails across the city.

- **Parkland Strategy:**

Feedback about the participants' favorite park amenities and what are missing will be thoroughly reviewed alongside park amenity mapping and technical analysis. A recommendation will be included in the Parkland Strategy to highlight the need to enhance existing parks and plan for future parks with youth in mind. Notably, when asked about their favorite parks, participants frequently mentioned larger parks with abundant active programming elements, such as Rocky Point Park. At the same time, a common preference for park features included places to relax and lots of trees. This highlights the need for future parks to offer a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities, supporting the mental and physical health of youth. Although trail mapping was not specifically designed for the Parkland Strategy, the feedback aligns with the goal of improving connectivity and accessibility both to and within parks.

## Other Option(s)

This report is provided for information only; therefore, no other options identified at this time.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

## Communications and Public Engagement Initiatives

All activities for the Youth Focused Engagement have been completed. The Youth Focused Engagement Summary will be shared with the public via links to the Report to Council on the Engage Port Moody project pages for Rocky Point and Old Orchard Parks Master Plans, Trail Network Plan, and Parkland Strategy.

## Council Strategic Plan Goals

This project aligns with the following Council Strategic Plan Goal(s):

- Strategic Goal 1.2 – Ensure financial sustainability;
- Strategic Goal 1.3 – Lead with good governance;
- Strategic Goal 2.1 – Protect, integrate, and enhance our natural assets;
- Strategic Goal 2.2 – Advance climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Strategic Goal 2.3 – Enhance and expand parkland and open spaces;
- Strategic Goal 3.1 – Create completed and connected communities through balanced growth;
- Strategic Goal 3.3 – Enhance community wellbeing; and
- Strategic Goal 4.3 – Leverage public spaces.

## Attachment(s)

1. Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement Summary

## Report Author

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Project Manager – Parks Planning

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Park Planning Projects – Youth Focused Engagement Summary.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Park Planning Projects - Youth Focused Engagement Summary.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jul 12, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Wayne Maskall, Manager of Parks - Jul 9, 2024

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, General Manager of Community Services - Jul 9, 2024

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - Jul 9, 2024

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jul 9, 2024

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jul 9, 2024

Anna Mathewson, City Manager - Jul 12, 2024