

ROCKY POINT PARK – VISIONING EXERCISE

COMMISSION ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE PARK NEEDS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE IDEAS TO HELP PRESERVE OR ENHANCE ESSENTIAL PARK EXPERIENCES AS PARK USAGE GROWS

PURPOSE. Expanding and enhancing Rocky Point Park to meet growing public demand has long been an objective of Council and has been identified as an area of specific interest in its Strategic Priorities for 2018-2022. What's more, the Parks & Recreation Master Plan calls for preserving park quality and experience, and preventing park wear-out, by upgrading Port Moody's most popular park and augmenting it as local population and regional usage of the Park increases.

The purpose of this ideation exercise by Port Moody's Parks & Recreation Commission is to evaluate and provide Council with preliminary input into issues and needs that are emerging in Rocky Point Park as its popularity grows, as well as ideation around possible opportunities and solutions to address these issues and needs.

Note that, although Park expansion into adjoining land that is currently privately held might ultimately become one of those opportunities or solutions, *the Commission has agreed to avoid formal consideration of that possibility in this exercise.*

THE PARK TODAY. To prepare for this Commission exercise, please re-read the [Parks & Recreation Master Plan](#) as regards [Rocky Point Park](#). Considered to be the "jewel in the crown" of the City's shoreline park system, which wraps around Burrard Inlet from the north shore and terminates today at the west side of Rocky Point Park, where the Flavelle mill site begins. (See map.)

- Rocky Point Park is 3.8 hectares, and a popular destination as well as a starting point for boaters using the boat launch or hikers using Shoreline Trail. Today's Park provides a large variety of amenities including:

- recreational pier
- [outdoor pool](#) (seasonal)
- [skateboard park](#)
- [bike trials park](#) (across Murray Street from the main parking lot)
- playground
- [boat launch](#)
- Rocky Point Pier
- [Old Mill Boat House](#) – home to non-power boat groups and clubs
- Artists in the Park – watch local artists in action (seasonal, weather permitting)
- [hiking and biking trails](#)
- wildlife viewing
- Numerous live events and open-air concerts (e.g., Golden Spike Day)
- Food concessions
- Kayak/canoe rentals

- Rocky Point is used heavily today, particularly on weekends, on fair-weather days, and through-out the summer months.

GROWING ROCKY POINT TO MATCH SKYROCKETING DEMAND. Over the next two decades, Rocky Point Park is on track to face intensifying population/usage pressures. By 2041, the City's neighbourhood plans and developments already in the pipeline envision +15-17K additional users - a boost of more than +50% in city population – and most of these additional residents will reside downtown and within just steps of the Park.

The City's neighbourhood redevelopment vision has approved 4,500 new residents for Coronation Park with just 1 acre of additional parkland. The City's OCP vision also calls for +4000 new residents/workers in the Moody Centre Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Area, but that vision would add only minimal new park space to the area. In addition to these, there are other large projects either planned or already under construction downtown by Panatch, Onni, Bosa, perhaps Fraser Health, and others, which altogether could bring thousands of additional Park users.

Non-residents are also expected to increase their visits to Rocky Point Park, which is widely popular in the TriCities. Note that, over the next decade, Coquitlam is planning a major densification of its west side neighbourhood adjoining Coronation Park, which will be a short walk from Port Moody's inlet parks, including Rocky Point Park.

FLAVELLE/OCEANFRONT. The Flavelle Mill is still in operation today, with ~75 employees, and may will continue indefinitely into the future. In 2017, however, the mill's owner, Mill & Timber, persuaded the City of Port Moody to endorse (which, in turn, persuaded the Metro Vancouver Regional District to support) a formal change in OCP vision for the mill site, from heavy industrial use to mixed development that would include some light industrial and retail business and bring a very large number of new residential condos and townhouses, for whom Rocky Point is likely to operate, in effect, as their "backyard."

If zoned and built as initially described, the Oceanfront development would modify the old mill site just west of the Park to add some 14 towers of various heights (up to 38 stories), more than +3400 condo units, and roughly +7000 new residents (which would, in a single development, bump up the city's population by +20%). As envisioned, this ultra-dense housing development has been projected to compound downtown road congestion within the vicinity of the Park by 40% during rush hours.

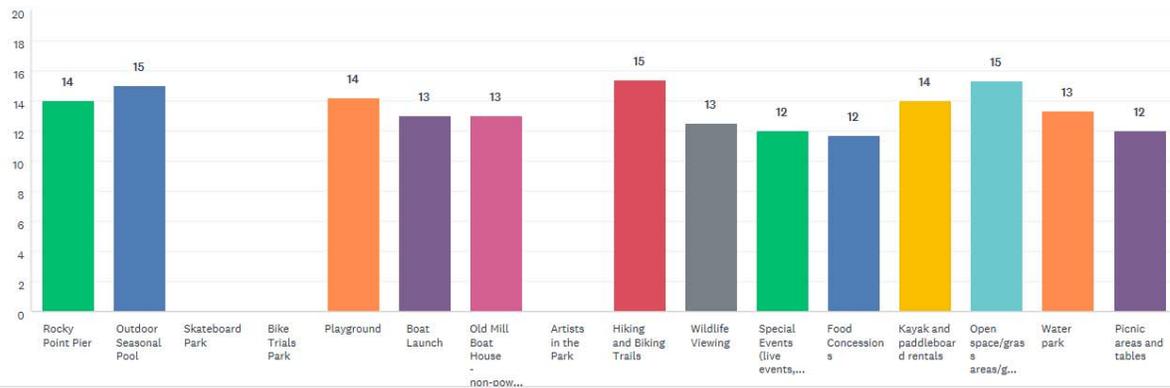
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1) **ESSENTIAL PARK EXPERIENCES TO PRESERVE?** In your opinion, and in ranked order of importance, what five activities or experiences that Rocky Point Park offers users today do you believe are the most popular, cherished, and essential for the Park to maintain over coming years, as the Park's overall usage grows?

1. Open space/grass areas/green space
2. Hiking and biking trails
3. Playground
4. Rocky Point Pier
5. Kayaking/stand up paddleboards

Essential Park Experiences to Preserve at Rocky Point Park

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0



2) **NEW PARK EXPERIENCES TO ADD?** Do you believe that anything important is missing from today's Park experience? Name up to 3 additional activities or experiences that, you believe, could enhance Rocky Point Park's offerings for users?

ANSWER CHOICES

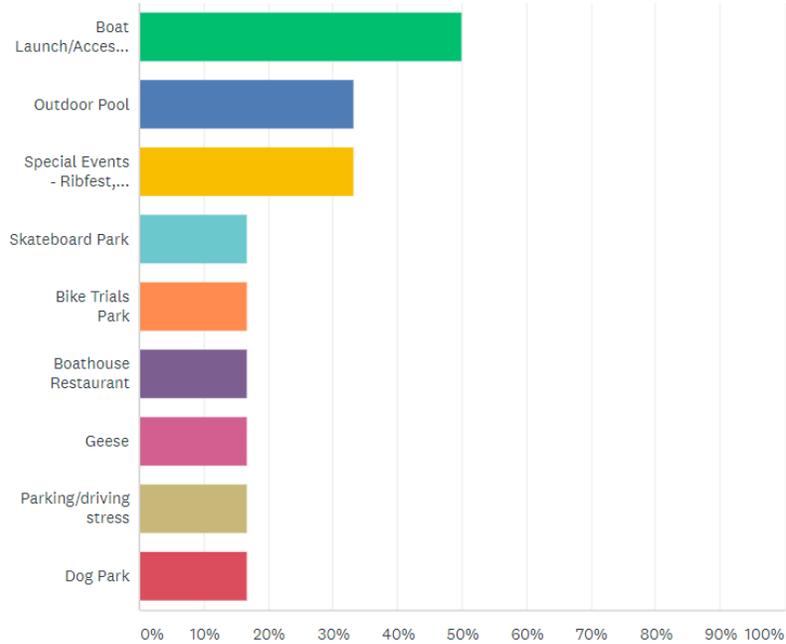
- ▼ Expanded off-road bike and pedestrian pathway connections
- ▼ Expanded Picnic shelters (that can be reserved)
- ▼ Community based local events
- ▼ Pop up Mobile food vendors (showcasing local vendors)
- ▼ Pop Up Art displays/local artists in park
- ▼ More railings on the pier for family use
- ▼ A separate and enclosed toddler playground (tot lot)
- ▼ More drinking water fountains at pier
- ▼ Open water swimming area (depends on water quality)
- ▼ Pay parking
- ▼ Increased enforcement of parking
- ▼ Outdoor physical fitness workout area
- ▼ Dog park
- ▼ Expanded/enhanced playground
- ▼ Senior-friendly initiatives
- ▼ Expansion of activities seasonally (over winter)
- ▼ Additional treed areas/increase wildlife habitat
- ▼ Free or low cost environmental educational programs for children (parks naturalists)
- ▼ Active sports play areas (volleyball/badminton) - would require additional park space
- ▼ Parkour
- ▼ Additional open space

Total Respondents: 9

3) **PARK EXPERIENCES TO DE-PRIORITIZE?** Name up to 3 current activities or experiences at today's RPP that you would be willing to see de-prioritized as the Park's usage increases?

Park Experiences to De-Prioritize

Answered: 6 Skipped: 3



Park Experiences to De-Prioritize

Answered: 6 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Boat Launch/Access for Power Boats	50.00% 3
▼ Outdoor Pool	33.33% 2
▼ Special Events - Ribfest, Summer music festivals	33.33% 2
▼ Skateboard Park	16.67% 1
▼ Bike Trials Park	16.67% 1
▼ Boathouse Restaurant	16.67% 1
▼ Geese	16.67% 1
▼ Parking/driving stress	16.67% 1
▼ Dog Park	16.67% 1
Total Respondents: 6	

- 4) **ROLE OF PARK IN CITY'S PARK SYSTEM?** Rocky Point today is the “jewel in the crown” of Port Moody’s park system, and especially its shoreline park network that rings the Burrard Inlet. Can you envision any ways in which usage pressure on RPP could be relieved or mitigated by initiatives regarding other parks in the system or the addition of other green spaces and recreational zones as the downtown densifies? Suggest up to 5 ideas along these lines.

ANSWER CHOICES

- ▼ Improved way finding and trail networks to other parks/improved pedestrian paths/better trail signage and maps
- ▼ Expanding Park (acquisition of lands around RPP)
- ▼ Another playground (e.g. adventure playground in Bert Flinn Park)
- ▼ Rethink amenity space in future high density development/acquire more than 5% greenspace
- ▼ Expand activities offered at RPP to other parks (i.e. Old Orchard Park) - use shuttles from RPP
- ▼ Pedestrian only street spaces/plazas
- ▼ Better playgrounds in smaller parks
- ▼ Other (please specify) [Responses](#)
- ▼ Review use of Pioneer Park
- ▼ Use of school fields for outdoor events and vendor/farmer markets
- ▼ Increasing off leash parks to reduce pressure on RPP for dogs
- ▼ Better use of Queens Street Plaza (concert, events)
- ▼ Pay parking on weekends at RPP
- ▼ Indoor swimming pool replacing field at Trasolini (after Inlet is completed)
- ▼ Hosting/rotating special events in other parks
- ▼ Small coffee concessions with outdoor seating in smaller parks
- ▼ Use landscaping to increase viewpoints and attract visitors to multiple areas
- ▼ Renovation of Old Orchard Park to take more visitors
- ▼ Limit/reduce commercial uses in parks
- ▼ Improve paddle access and piers
- ▼ Improved and wider boardwalks
- ▼ Limit hours of use for power boat launching
- ▼ Encourage visitors to park in nearby parking lots and introduce a shuttle service to transport visitors to park entrance
- ▼ Consider closing the main parking lot by the pool
- ▼ Free shuttle service from Skytrain to other parks

Total Respondents: 9

5) **ROLE OF PARK IN LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS?** Adding dramatically more human users to Rocky Point Park obviously puts pressure on other living things and their usage of the Park's shoreline, coastal waters, watercourses, canopy and green spaces for habitation, nesting, and foraging. Which natural neighbours are you most concerned about losing as human usage intensifies?

To protect the ecosystem is a task in itself. Daylighting streams and addressing water issues, drainage throughout the inlet is a key to a healthy environment

9/30/2019 6:54 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

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Seals, nesting birds, salmon

9/30/2019 6:47 PM

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Especially the species that depend on the unique ecosystem of the shoreline and mudflats

9/30/2019 6:43 PM

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- Protection of streams and other watercourses through the park - Protection of herons, ducks and other waterbirds Ultimately we should try to avoid losing any natural neighbours in favour of human usage. The park gets used by bears, coyotes, birds, etc. all the time and we should be mindful the park was their space before humans arrived.

9/30/2019 6:36 PM

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Impacts on migrating birds (e.g. heron nesting), sea life including spawning salmon via people entering waterways with pets, interactions with bears and cougars leading to conservation officers having to shoot these animals

9/30/2019 6:31 PM

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NA

9/30/2019 6:27 PM

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Although I know about watercourses, tree canopy, etc that all play a significant role in the overall vital space we call RPP, I would seek out information provided by science and research to answer this question. We do know that increasing human usage impacts negatively on wildlife, trees, plants, waterways and it's a good question to include from the start of a review.

9/30/2019 6:24 PM

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- 6) **IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS THAT COULD HELP PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE PARK AS LOCAL DENSITY AND PARK USAGE INCREASE?** Identify up to 10 ideas for changes to the Park that could help Rocky Point cope with, or even benefit from, the anticipated increases in its usage over the next 10-20 years? Ideas to consider might pertain to the Park's policies, permitted activities, design and operations, staffing, accessibility, parking and transit, private and public events, boundaries and dimensions (without naming any specific private properties), funding, or other aspects.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Develop an expansion plan for Rocky Point Park/increase the size of the park/buy properties	66.67% 6
▼ Transit Improvements/more shuttle service/park and ride service	55.56% 5
▼ Paid Parking/stop free parking	44.44% 4
▼ Create learning opportunities for children to connect with nature	22.22% 2
▼ Institute summer weekend paid parking with passes available (priority to PoMo residents)	22.22% 2
▼ More trees/less open space	11.11% 1
▼ Develop natural marine habitats	11.11% 1
▼ Public Engagement to identify a specific number of uses for RPP	11.11% 1
▼ Promote other parks and school playgrounds	11.11% 1
▼ Work with Tri-Cities concept to stage large public events in Tri-Cities	11.11% 1
▼ Look at potential revenue producing events/activities	11.11% 1
▼ Look at designs for handicapped and seniors	11.11% 1
▼ Limit large events on weekends and peak times, increase fees for usage	11.11% 1
▼ Expand garbage/recycling/green waste collection in Rocky Point Park	11.11% 1
▼ Safe bike parking	11.11% 1
▼ Vision for area around Murray Street (between shoreline and the tracks) to enhance areas from industrial /commercial to safe park and entertainment area	11.11% 1
▼ Look to create more plaza areas, street café style spaces	11.11% 1
▼ Continued promotion of WCE parking space	11.11% 1
▼ Upgrading trail systems and connections to other areas	11.11% 1
▼ Replacement of log booms with a wildlife only island for birds and seals (if mill closes)	11.11% 1

▼ Reduce some or all of the parking lot by the boat launch for park use such as another playground/plaza space.	11.11%	1
▼ Limit the boat launch for powerboats to shorter hours and offsite parking.	11.11%	1
▼ Relocate the Station Museum to other public land as it does not align to other park activities.	11.11%	1
▼ Require all summer camps to register if they use the playground more than 30 minutes and limit the number of groups in the playground at one time. Have a playground monitor in the summer.	11.11%	1
▼ Build a second playground in the west end of the park with a fenced area for toddlers (limits for groups using and playground monitor)	11.11%	1
▼ Wave decks along the waterfront (like Toronto)	11.11%	1
▼ Water taxi service around the inlet (if there is a non-polluting option)	11.11%	1
▼ Requirements that any new developments nearby must include a wide public boardwalk along the waterfront	11.11%	1
▼ Relocate boat launch to alternate site to create parking space or additional grass area	11.11%	1
▼ Evaluate impact of closing restaurant and free up park space	11.11%	1
▼ Interpretative signage (nature and history)	11.11%	1
▼ Stop using breweries as a tourism benefit for park	11.11%	1
▼ Move non-power boats to north side of the inlet	11.11%	1
▼ Stop changing park priorities as political cycles occur	11.11%	1
▼ Create a second overpass west of Moody Street for pedestrians and vehicles	11.11%	1
▼ Changes to food trucks/park concessions, patrol them	11.11%	1
▼ Rebuild a pool on the water	11.11%	1
▼ Build an additional pier to accommodate paddle, boat and kayak traffic	11.11%	1
▼ Widen sidewalks in the park to accommodate large events (to attract people and generate money)	11.11%	1

Total Respondents: 9

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