Lecture – Principles of Park Planning

• The Public Realm
• Anatomy of a park
• Park planning and design
• Spirit of place – ‘genius loci’
THE PUBLIC REALM
The Public Realm

WHAT IS IT?

Strait of Georgia
Pitt Lake
Fraser River
Alouette Lake
Mt. Seymour Provincial Park
Lynn Headwaters Cypress Provincial Park
Indian Arm Provincial Park
Pinecone / Burke Provincial Park
Golden Ears Provincial Park
UBC Research Forest
Alaksen N’tl Wildlife Area
Sturgeon Bank
Roberts Bank
Boundary Bay
Serpentine Fen
Pitt-Addington Marsh
BCIT Woodlot
Pacific Spirit Iona Beach
Burns Bog
Boundary Bay
Campbell Valley
Aldergrove Sumas Mountain
Matsqui Trail
Crippen Capilano River
Glen Valley
Tynehead Derby Reach Brae Island
Kanaka Creek
Blaney Bog
Codd Wetland
Minnekhada Widgeon Marsh
Belcarra Burnaby Lake Colony Farm
Thwaytes Landing Surrey Bend
Fraser River Islands
Deas Island Delta
South Surrey Greenway
Brunette-Fraser Greenway
Seymour River Greenway
Pitt River Greenway
North Alouette Greenway
Barnston Island
Apodaca Bowen Island Ecological Reserve
Delta Nature Reserve
South Arm Marshes
Abbotsford Delta
Langley Township
Richmond
Maple Ridge
Vancouver
Coquitlam
North Vancouver District
Burnaby Pitt Meadows
West Vancouver Port Moody
Bowen Island Anmore
Port Coquitlam
New Westminster North Vancouver City Belcarra
Langley City
Tsawwassen First Nation
Lions Bay Electoral Area A
Coquitlam Watershed
Capilano Watershed
Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve
Kilometers

Regional Parks & Greenways, Municipal and Provincial Parks & Protected Areas

*Watersheds & WMAs not factored into summary calculations

Regional
Parks
14,452 ha

Greenways
- - -
Watersheds
- - -

Municipal
Parks
13,820 ha

Provincial
Parks & Greenways
26,853 ha

Wildlife Management Areas
- - -

* Watersheds & WMAs not factored into summary calculations

Federal Sites
381 ha

Institutional Sites
5,076 ha

TOTAL
72,387 ha

part of Fraser River Delta RAMSAR Site #596
April 2015
The Public Realm

WHAT IS IT?

- Parks
- Greenways
- Urban parks
- Public plazas
- Public buildings
- Laneways
- Streets
- Green roofs
- Public transit
- Beaches

...publicly owned streets, pathways, right of ways, parks, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities...
The Public Realm

WHAT IS IT?

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The Public Realm

WHAT IS IT?

THE ELEMENTS OF A CITY KEVIN LYNCH
ANATOMY OF A PARK
Anatomy of a Park

PARK TYPOLOGIES

- Large parks
- Neighbourhood parks
- Nature parks
- Conservation areas
- Plazas
- Pocket parks
- Sports/recreation parks

Stanley Park, Vancouver

Mid Main Park, Vancouver
Anatomy of a Park

THE BASIC COMPONENTS

- Access + Entrance
- Circulation (connections, places to move through)
- Nodes (places to stay)
- Natural Areas / Planting
- Features/points of interest

...the built and natural elements that make up a park...
How do I get to the park, and how do I know when I have arrived?...
...How do I get to the park, and how do I know when I have arrived?...
- A hierarchy
- Designed for type, frequency and intended use
- Defines how people move through and experience the park
- Defines places within the circulation network
- Internal park users and those moving through the site
Anatomy of a Park

CIRCULATION

PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL ROADS

LOCAL ROADS

COLLECTOR ARTERIAL ROADS

BUS ROUTE
Anatomy of a Park

CIRULATION
Anatomy of a Park

**NODES**

- Gathering space
- Open space
- Formal gardens
- Beaches
- Picnic areas
- Activity zones
- Markets
- Playgrounds
- Community gardens
- Program areas

*place to stay, spend time. Destinations.......*
...place to stay, spend time. Destinations....
- Conservation areas
- No access zones
- Boundary + edge definition
- Farm areas
- Natural amenities protected for Ecological services
- Contribute sound, air quality, visual interest and buffers, and natural setting to park experience
Anatomy of a Park

FEATURES: POINTS OF INTEREST

- Art
- Interpretation
- A view
- A surprise
- Heritage feature
- A relic
- A big tree
- A memorial
THE BASIC COMPONENTS – FEATURES: POINTS OF INTEREST

Stanley Park Totem Poles
Anatomy of a Park

THE BASIC COMPONENTS – STANLEY PARK
HOW DO WE GET FROM.....

AN EMPTY SITE
TO A PARK PLAN + DESIGN
Park Planning + Design

City + Regional Planning

- Regional / City Scale Plans identifies a need for a park
  - Land is acquired

Planning a Park

- Research and Information Gathering
  - Inventory and Analysis
    - Public and First Nation Engagement
- Vision, Goals + Objectives
  - Program Development
  - Concept Development
    - Public and First Nation Engagement
- Final Plan Preparation
  - Political Approval
- Detailed Design
  - Construction
    - Complete
- Regional Plans
- Policy
- Existing recreational demand studies
- Growth projections and trend analysis
Ecological Design
GIS
Ecosystem Services

...design that minimizes environmentally destructive impacts by integrating itself with living processes...
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Environmental
  - Geology
  - Soils
  - Hydrology
  - Existing vegetation
  - Wetlands
  - Wildlife and habitat
  - Climate – orientation, wind, precipitation, humidity
  - Topography
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Socio Economic + Cultural
  - Adjacent communities
  - Cultures
  - First Nations
  - Traditional land use
  - Existing land use
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Infrastructure
  - Zoning
  - Existing buildings
  - Utilities + servicing
  - Planned infrastructure
  - Road, trail and other connections
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Experiential
  - Views
  - Points of interest
  - Special features
  - Sound + smell
- Who are the users
- What are their interests
- What do they want in the park?
- Are there others not being heard?
- Who is this park for?
- Community meeting
- Special interest group meetings
- Community workshops
- Public open houses
- Response?
What make a place special or distinct - its past, current and future essence

- Natural elements
- Sounds
- Smells
- History
- Built form
- Views
- The people in the space
- The textures, colors
- seasons
Placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place and support its ongoing evolution... 

-Project for Public Space
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

- Good existing habitat. Opportunity to expand that green corridor into the park.
- Higher elevation - stable, opportunity for access and park node development.
- Flat, open area - opportunity to establish universally accessible trail in response to public input.
- Low lying area - vulnerable to erosion. Constraint - not appropriate for building.
- Existing watercourse - constraint 30 m setback applies, opportunity to enhance habitat for salmon and eagle, and to improve carbon sequestration.
- Park Program
- Vision + Goals
- Concept Plan
  - Access + Entrance
  - Circulation
  - Nodes
  - Natural Areas / Planting
  - Features/points of interest
- Design development
- Detailed design
- Construction
- Are people using this park?
- Do people take ownership of this park?
- Do those who engaged in the process support the end product?
- Is it performing its intended ecological services?
QUESTIONS?