



October 14, 2015

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Love Locks Sculpture Location and Development

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve Queen Elizabeth Park as the most suitable location for a 'Love Locks' sculpture in Vancouver.

## POLICY

The Park Board approves major changes in parks.

## BACKGROUND

On July 6, 2015 the Park Board Commissioners reviewed the board report titled "Love Locks Concept Plan" and adopted the final motions:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve retaining a local artist through a competitive procurement process to create a custom and structurally safe 'Love Lock' sculpture for Vancouver Parks.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board ask staff to proceed with public consultation for a 'Love Lock' installation to include potential diverse locations across the City, as well as the opportunity for open-ended input.

Staff were directed to report back post public consultation. This report responds to this request.

## Public Consultation

A public consultation campaign ran from August 19, 2015 to September 16, 2015. The purpose of the campaign was to provide an opportunity for the public to vote for one of thirteen suggested park locations (see Appendix A), or to nominate a different park location, for a love locks sculpture. Feedback regarding the overall support for the sculpture was also collected. The campaign was well advertised through flyers, posters, park signs, and social media. Thirty project signs were posted in the thirteen selected parks, over one hundred posters were displayed on community boards, five hundred information cards were distributed, and the campaign was advertised through Twitter, Facebook, Talk Vancouver and local news sources. All of these mediums directed users to the project web page where the public could partake in a short survey.

In total, 2,097 surveys were completed, which is a significantly higher response than normal for park public engagement campaigns. The large response indicates the data represents a good cross section of the public.

Public consultation findings show that:

- Overall 57% of respondents like the idea, an additional 14% were neutral and only 29% do not like the idea.
- Respondents from all different parts of Vancouver were represented, with the greatest proportion from the West End and Downtown (21%), followed by the Kitsilano/West Point Grey in the Northwest (17%). As well, close to a quarter (20%) of those who responded lived outside of Vancouver (not surprising since a love locks sculpture would likely be an attraction for those visiting the City).
- All age ranges were represented, with the greatest proportion of respondents being 20 to 39 years of age (46%).
- More respondents were women than men (59% vs. 36%).
- Votes for the sculpture location were spread amongst the 13 park choices: no one park emerged with a majority vote (i.e. selected by over 50% of respondents). The most popular locations, with the greatest proportion of votes were English Bay Beach Park (33%), Queen Elizabeth Park (24%), and Kitsilano Beach Park (23%).

A complete summary of the public input results is attached to this report (See Appendix B).

## **DISCUSSION**

Public preference for the love lock sculpture location is an important component, however not the only factor when making an informed decision. Archaeological factors and First Nations concerns, public use, and environmental considerations are crucial factors when proposing new amenities in any waterfront park.

### **Archaeology**

Both English Bay Beach Park and Kitsilano Beach Park are known as traditional First Nations lands. Archaeological sensitivity is very high in these parks. There is strong cultural connection to these locations and the Park Board is currently collaborating with representatives from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Initial discussions with staff and the First Nations confirm that, of the top three locations, the only suitable location for the sculpture is in Queen Elizabeth Park.

### **Public Use**

Future development plans and high use of the top three locations should also be considered. Both Kitsilano Beach Park and English Bay Beach Park are intensely used waterfront parks that are accessible by cycle, pedestrian, and transit routes, offer beautiful views and are popular with tourists and locals alike. Although these factors would increase the visibility and accessibility of the new sculpture, they also point to the fact that open green spaces in both locations are at a premium; this is especially evident during events like the annual Celebration of Light.

Also, while the intent is to have a safe collection box for keys that are typically thrown aside when locks are placed on the sculpture, there is the likelihood that some will end up on the ground or in the water, and at the beach locations there is a greater chance for conflicts with bare feet, dogs, and wildlife who may ingest the keys. Furthermore, in the case of English Bay Beach, a seawall and foreshore renewal is anticipated within the decade, which would likely result in a need to relocate the sculpture from this location. Two public art pieces are also already in close proximity to English Bay Beach: Amazing Laughter and the Inukshuk.

### **Environment**

Climate change and sea level rise are of concern in both English Bay Beach Park and Kitsilano Beach Park. Both park waterfronts may need foreshore protection measures (dependent upon the outcome of on-going engineering studies), which may affect possible sculpture locations. A seaside location for the sculpture would also increase the corrosive potential from salt spray for any metal components and reduce its longevity.

### **Recommended Location**

Staff recommend Queen Elizabeth Park as the best location for a love lock sculpture due to a positive survey response, archaeological and environmental concerns, and a highly complementary setting for the project.

The park is accessible by vehicle, foot, bicycle, transit or tour bus, and is often visited on special occasions for picnics, photo opportunities, strolls through the gardens and for weddings in the pavilion, as well as regular recreational use. The topography of the park lends to panoramic views of the City of Vancouver, the North Shore, Burnaby, more points further east, and has ample space to support another feature (see Appendix C for possible locations). Park facilities (Bloedel Conservatory, the Celebration Pavilion, and Seasons in the Park Restaurant) present partnering and programming opportunities.

### **RFP for Design Build**

Upon approval from the Park Board for a location, staff would initiate a competitive procurement process to hire a designer and/or artist to design and build the love locks sculpture. The precise location will be finalized in the design stage in Queen Elizabeth Park and emphasize the following factors for the sculpture:

- The design should be unique to Vancouver and complement the specific place that it is located in.
- The location should not conflict with existing park gathering spaces or uses, or diminish views to other park features.
- The design should further incorporate public amenity (i.e. the sculpture also creates seating, shade, lookout, etc.).
- The form must be visually appealing as the amount of locks grows.
- The sculpture must be structurally sound and a structural engineer will be involved.
- A creative key collection component for safe key disposal is needed, and the end life of the keys should become a storied dimension of the installation.

- Proponents will be required to have experience in successful public art and/or commemorative projects.

### **Link to the Strategic Plan**

This proposal links to the Park Board Strategic Objective for Active Community Participation. By providing a new interactive arts and culture experience this project encourages active participation in parks.

### **SUMMARY**

The successful public engagement in the summer of 2015 shows strong support for the idea of a love locks sculpture in Vancouver. Popular vote, archaeological and environmental concerns, and public use all reinforce Queen Elizabeth Park as the best location for this unique project. Staff recommend proceeding with an RFP for a love lock sculpture in Queen Elizabeth Park.

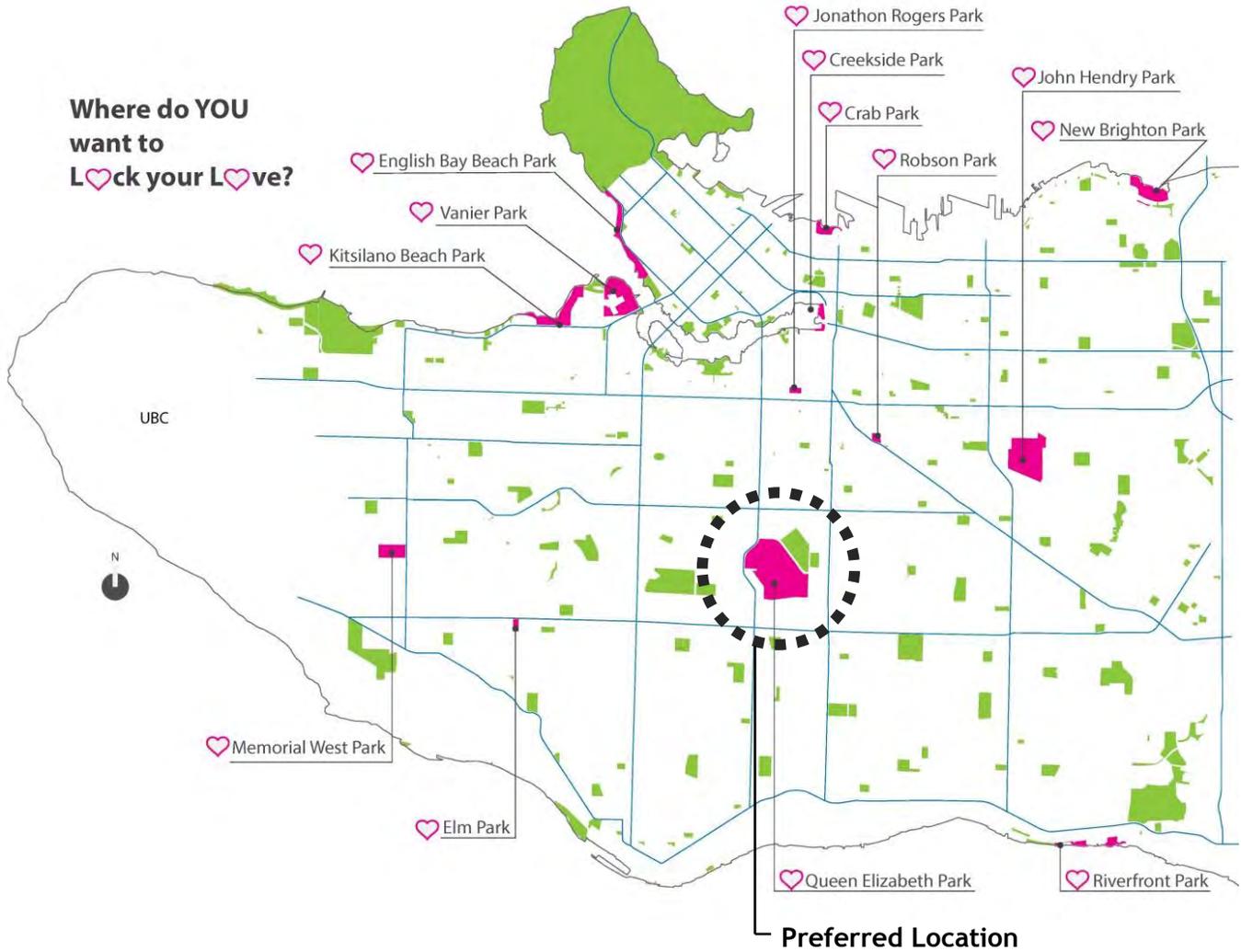
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# APPENDIX A

Map - Proposed 13 Possible Park Locations for Love Locks in Parks



**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED**

**APPENDIX B**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	Zone Total						
		Vancouver Only Total	West End and Downtown	North East (North of 16th, East of Main)	North West (North of 16th, West of Main)	South West (South of 16th, West of Main)	South East (South of 16th, East of Main)	Not found in Vancouver Postal Codes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2097</b>	1596	446	312	357	162	319	425
Crab Park	<b>217</b>	187	65	53	28	10	31	25
	<b>10%</b>	12%	15%	17%	8%	6%	10%	6%
Creekside Park	<b>207</b>	179	54	50	36	16	23	18
	<b>10%</b>	11%	12%	16%	10%	10%	7%	4%
Elm Park	<b>12</b>	10	2	2	2	2	2	2
	<b>1%</b>	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
English Bay Beach Park	<b>682</b>	460	150	79	100	48	83	200
	<b>33%</b>	29%	34%	25%	28%	30%	26%	47%
John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park	<b>153</b>	131	19	36	17	14	45	16
	<b>7%</b>	8%	4%	12%	5%	9%	14%	4%
Jonathon Rogers Park	<b>21</b>	20	2	9	5	1	3	1
	<b>1%</b>	1%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Kitsilano Beach Park	<b>488</b>	349	95	44	110	42	58	119
	<b>23%</b>	22%	21%	14%	31%	26%	18%	28%
Memorial West Park	<b>26</b>	23	4	5	4	4	6	3
	<b>1%</b>	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
New Brighton Park	<b>115</b>	93	18	40	9	4	22	20
	<b>5%</b>	6%	4%	13%	3%	2%	7%	5%
Queen Elizabeth Park	<b>507</b>	351	64	58	53	58	118	139
	<b>24%</b>	22%	14%	19%	15%	36%	37%	33%
Riverfront Park	<b>91</b>	71	12	7	9	4	39	20
	<b>4%</b>	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%	12%	5%
Robson Park	<b>120</b>	82	23	18	18	7	16	30
	<b>6%</b>	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	7%
Vanier Park	<b>360</b>	287	66	49	93	32	47	56
	<b>17%</b>	18%	15%	16%	26%	20%	15%	13%
No preference	<b>141</b>	102	21	22	34	10	15	25
	<b>7%</b>	6%	5%	7%	10%	6%	5%	6%
Don't like the idea	<b>499</b>	428	130	87	96	40	75	54
	<b>24%</b>	27%	29%	28%	27%	25%	24%	13%

APPENDIX C

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Map - Proposed Locations for Love Lock Sculpture in Queen Elizabeth Park

