Spiced Downtowns
NOT a Spice-less Downtown
Great Parks?
Great if PEOPLE Visit, Stay and Return

NOT if it wins awards
Spiced
Downtowns
Change
CHANGE = HARD

Same = Easier
Greta Thunberg
16 year old Swedish activist

SKOLSTREJK
für
KLIMATET
Friday’s for Future
Friday’s for Future
“I do not want your hope. I want you to act. I want you to act as if you were in a crisis... as if the house was on fire. Because it is.”

Greta Thunberg, 16 year old Swedish activist.
Creating Family-Friendly Downtowns
Creating Family-Friendly Downtowns

Erion Veliaj,
Mayor of Tirana, Albania

Jennifer Smith,
Providence Parks Conservancy

Dave Hutch,
Vancouver Board Parks & Rec.
Thanks

www.CityParksAlliance.org
www.WorldUrbanParks.org
Understanding Park Access in Family-Friendly Cities

Dave Hutch
Director, Planning & Park Development
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation
Goal 5: Access to Nature
- All residents live 5min walk to open space
- 150,000 new trees
- Restore or enhance 25ha of natural area

Active Living and Getting Outside
- All residents live 5min walk to open space
- Increase % pop meeting Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines
“Five-minute walk” presented as a 400m circle from park boundary
HOW CLOSE IS MY NEAREST PARK?

In 2016, the Vancouver Park Board conducted a spatial analysis of parks and other public green spaces in neighbourhoods across Vancouver. A walking network that modeled actual walking routes was developed to understand how long it takes to walk from home to your nearest park.
### Park Provision Study (2016 & 2018)

#### Residents of Vancouver:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5 minute</th>
<th>8 minute</th>
<th>10 minute</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and green spaces</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks, green spaces and schools</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Work or go to school in Vancouver:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5 minute</th>
<th>8 minute</th>
<th>10 minute</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and green spaces</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks, green spaces and schools</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Small but Mighty**

While some of our parks are large like Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park, the majority of our parks are less than 3 HA in size. Figure 4. illustrates that often times are smaller parks are surrounded by the most amount of people.

**Figure 4. Park Size and Surrounding Population Density**

- **Size of Park**
  - 60 HA
  - 30 HA
  - 3 HA
  - 0.4 HA

- **Density**
  - Over 70% of parks are less than 3 HA
  - Stanley Park at 392 HA is not included in this graph.

- **Population Living Within 8 min Walk**
  - 25,000
  - 15,000
  - 5,000
  - 0
Walking Times to Nearest Park (Residents)

- Less than Five Minutes: 525,772 (83%)
- Between Five and Eight Minutes: 95,405 (15%)
- Between Eight and Ten Minutes: 9,014 (1%)
- Greater than Ten Minutes: 1,294 (0%)

Percentages are rounded to the nearest hundred. In some cases values may be slightly over or under 100%.

Included in this Analysis:
- City of Vancouver Parks
- POIs
- Adjacent Parks
- Schools
- Other Greenspaces
- Arbutus Greenway
- Future Parks

Map Prepared By: Leder Geospatial Consulting Co. (www.lgec.ca)
What does this tell us about service gaps?
Can we tell the story better?
A new paradigm that will maximize **access to high-quality parks and recreation experiences** that connect people with themselves, each other and nature.
To understand how we can target historically underserved areas we can:

1. **First identity service gaps** (Initiative Zones)
2. **Address inequity** by applying an intersectional lens as we work to fill those gaps in an inclusive way that meets the needs of the community (Equity Analysis Factors)
The **Initiative Zones** map uses three indicators to highlight areas in need of resources.
The intention is to use this as one tool for priority setting.

Over time, by directing investment and updating this data, provision of parks and recreation will become more equitable.
There are many, many factors in “equity” and “need”, each are unique to individuals and situations.

The tool can be both either broad or granular, or simple and complex when it needs to be.

The long-term vision is for an online map which allows staff and the community to overlay various “Equity Analysis Factors” on top of the base zones.
Layers showing geographic patterns could be added over time, such as:

- **Population patterns** - children, youth, older adults, seniors
- Equity seeking groups and **vulnerability indicators**
- Data from surveys such as potential annual **satisfaction surveys**, or the “My Health, My Community” survey which reports levels of physical activity levels, wellness, sense of community etc.
- Distribution of capital investment
- **Access indicators** such as car ownership, people with disabilities, languages spoken at home
Equity Analysis Factors

For example;
Vancouver’s Toddler Population Density

Toddler = 1-4 years (inclusive)
Grumpy Toddler Index
Aaron Licker – Licker Geospatial

Access to Splash Parks within 400m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400m</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grumpy Toddler Index

Access to Splash Parks within 800m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800m</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grumpy Toddler Index

Access to Splash Parks within 1200m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,200m</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grumpy Toddler Index

Access to Splash Parks within 1,600m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance (m)</th>
<th>Adults (%)</th>
<th>Toddlers (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grumpy Toddler Index

Walking distance to splash parks, using the sidewalk network.
Distance is one thing, comfort and convenience is another.
Grumpy Toddler Index

Creekside Playground, Vancouver
Grumpy Toddler Index

Creekside Playground, Vancouver
Grumpy Toddler Index

Route 1 – 320m
Toddler time = 7.5 minutes

Route 2 – 530m
Toddler time = 8.75 minutes

5km/hr = 1.38m/s

3.6km/hr = 1m/s

1 minute delays
Grumpy Toddler Index

Adult-speed walking times to spray parks

5km/hr = 1.38m/s
Grumpy Toddler Index

Toddler-speed walking times to spray parks

3.6km/hr = 1m/s

Toddler Walking Times
- < 5 Minutes
- 5 - 10 Minutes walk
- 10 - 15 Minutes Walk
- 15 - 20 Minutes Walk
- > 20 Minutes Walk
## Grumpy Toddler Index

### “as the crow flies”
**distance access metrics for splash parks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400m</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800m</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,200m</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,600m</td>
<td>69.9%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “as the human walks”
**time access metrics for splash parks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grumpy Toddler Index

Density of toddlers beyond a 20 minute walk to the spray park
# Grumpy Toddler Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood</th>
<th>Total Grumpy Toddlers</th>
<th>% of all Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kensington-Cedar Cottage</td>
<td>1,686</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renfrew-Collingwood</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killarney</td>
<td>1,046</td>
<td>97.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria-Fraserview</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Pleasant</td>
<td>916</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>68.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings-Sunrise</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West End</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Point Grey</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitsilano</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood</th>
<th>Total Grumpy Toddler</th>
<th>% of all Toddlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riley Park</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marpole</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerrisdale</td>
<td>369</td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbutus-Ridge</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunbar-Southlands</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakridge</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaletown</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Cambie</td>
<td>286</td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaughnessy</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandview-Woodland</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathcona</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal Harbour</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Area is elevated for drainage system.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survive</th>
<th>ME!</th>
<th>Thrive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean</td>
<td>Clean</td>
<td>Healthy Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Oxgen</td>
<td>Solid Ozone Layer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>Hygiene</td>
<td>Frozen Polar Ice-Caps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Lund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Manage Consciousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Peace</td>
<td>World Peace</td>
<td>World Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Good Job</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Prevent Why!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Clean Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Home</td>
<td>Happy Home</td>
<td>Snowball Fights!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Food</td>
<td>Healthy Food</td>
<td>Worth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring Family</td>
<td>Caring Family</td>
<td>Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Job</td>
<td>Good Job</td>
<td>Loving Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Community</td>
<td>Happy Community</td>
<td>To Be Able To Think!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Peace</td>
<td>World Peace</td>
<td>Art Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent Why!!!</td>
<td>Prevent Why!!!</td>
<td>Do What You Like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Water</td>
<td>Clean Water</td>
<td>Money!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowball Fights!!!</td>
<td>Snowball Fights!!!</td>
<td>Paper Waste Recycled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement • VanPlay – Imagination Playground tour
Engagement

• Coopers Park – Surveys for popsicles
Creating Family Friendly Downtowns

Transforming Public Spaces Through Play

Downtown Providence Parks Conservancy

Greater Kennedy Plaza

Providence, Rhode Island.
TRANSFORMATION CONTEXT

Kennedy Plaza 1914

Kennedy Plaza 1997
Kennedy Plaza Redesign
Infrastructure Improvements

Burnside Park
$399,000 Foundation Grant
Underutilized Building

Retail Bakery

Retail Development / Park Activation
Biltmore Parking

Biltmore Park
Stewardship

250+ volunteers planted and perform park maintenance yearly
Public Programming Snapshot

- Burnside Music Series
- Lunchtime Music
- Food Trucks
- Farmers Market
- Family Programming
- Imagination Center
- Special Events
- Winter Lights Market
- Plaza Programming
TRANSFORMATION CATALYST

2010: First Children + Family Program

Providence Storytime in partnership with Kidinfo–avg 20-50 kids 2010
Now largest single-site story hour in Providence, averages over 200 with award-winning storytellers, performers, authors, artists
2011: Mobile Playground

Pop-up playground with inexpensive materials = Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper activation
SWA HOTC 2013 Imagination Center Program Hub
Open Air Reading Room

Books to read or borrow
Flexible and comfortable quiet space
Effects of programming

Programming drastically improves behavior and safety

• 84% decrease in negative behavior during programming
• (compared to 68% in 2016)
• 76.3% decrease in smoking during programming

77.8% increase in children during programming
36.1% increase in adult women during programming
The Power of 10: Food Trucks + Farmers Market

Local vendors July through October
Food Trucks year round
EXPANSION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Family Art, Science, Music, Nature + Dance
2017: Brandon’s Beach Playground

A permanent, uniquely accessible destination playground that is a draw for families downtown. $650,000 total investment in playspace + Center upgrades
Imagination Center
Improvements 2017
Illuminating the Night: Winter Lights Market
“Night Lights” Event Activities + Film Screenings

Participatory + Interactive experiences make people feel belonging in a place

New / expanded partnerships with Providence Children’s Film Festival, RISD Museum, local artist mini-residencies
2018 SWA Heart of the Community

- Activate + connect entryway
- Mural panels + public art
- Community Information
- Expanded deck, stage, retail
- Flexible fencing + planters
- Enhanced sound + lighting
- Mobile stage & projection capabilities
- Expand Program Audiences
Next Phase for Kennedy Plaza

Plans to activate public spaces with redistributed bus routes and redesigned Plaza for human-scaled & family friendly environment in collaboration with City Planning & Parks Departments
Connected, safe, welcoming public spaces and human scaled environments are beneficial for all the physical and mental health of all humans, and critical for healthy communities.