

## **Executive Summary:**

### **Topic and Purpose**

Implementation of park amenities and public space help create an outdoor meeting place for civic events, markets, socialization and offer a wide array of both passive and active recreation. The City of Vancouver has created guiding principles in attempts to create more park amenities and public space beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts. In response to this, this report aims to evaluate two similar case studies within North America and identify successful aspects of their design and make recommendations that could potentially be incorporated into the Vancouver study site. The two case studies analyzed were the Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York and the West Don Lands in Toronto.

The evaluation of these two case studies was used to answer the following question:

What design and planning features could contribute to create successful and user-friendly park amenities and public space in the area beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts in Vancouver?

### **Study Area**

The study area is located in the surrounding area beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts in Vancouver, British Columbia. These viaducts disconnect surrounding neighbourhoods and due to recent stakeholder cooperation, the under-utilized land beneath them has been opened up to new opportunities and options that could see the area redeveloped. The City of Vancouver is seeking to fill the intended space with a vibrant entertainment district that would combine both residential and commercial opportunities with increased parks and public spaces.

### **Methods**

To create recommendations for the City of Vancouver to help guide the design of park amenities and public space beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts, this report first examined existing documents that were used by the City to better understand the reasoning behind the guiding principles that the City of Vancouver originally used for its design competition. This report then

undertook a qualitative case study review of two similar areas within North America to see how these theoretical guiding principles came to fruition in real life scenarios and help identify successful aspects of these case studies. This report then pulled best practices and features from both case study areas in order to make recommendations for creating successful park amenities and public space for the Vancouver viaduct study site.

## **Evaluation**

The evaluative criteria within this report was adapted from existing principles created by the City of Vancouver to help guide the design competition held to gain an understanding of what residents wanted to see built in the area beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts. The adapted principles used in this report to evaluate the Brooklyn Bridge Park and the West Don Lands are:

1. PLACE: LEGIBLE & UNIQUE.
2. LINKAGES: MOVEMENT & MOBILITY.
3. GREEN DESIGN: INNOVATE.
4. COMMUNITIES, HERITAGE, NATURE & CULTURE: RESTORE, INTEGRATE & RESPECT.

## **Recommendations**

1. *Develop mixed use buildings and parking spaces at main entry points to the park*
2. *Reconnect neighbourhoods and visitors to the water*
3. *Create specific sporting zones and implement infrastructure within the park that promotes forms of recreational activities*
4. *Facilitate and encourage modes of active transportation*
5. *Increase accessibility to the park through multiple forms of public transportation*
6. *Use of innovative and environmentally sustainable design initiatives*
7. *Understand and interpret the site history*

## **Conclusion**

The City of Vancouver is looking to create park amenities and public space that will attract visitors of all ages and ethnicities to come and enjoy a wide array of entertainment and socialization in the surrounding area beneath the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts. The Brooklyn

Bridge Park and West Don Lands provided excellent examples of design features that help create successful parks and public spaces. From environmentally friendly design to preservation of culture and heritage, these case studies helped this report identify successful design features which create parks and public spaces that consistently attract a wide array of visitors. These case studies guided recommendations made in this report for the City of Vancouver to use in its future design plans for the proposed study area.