

How the City of North Vancouver Parks can be used as Living Spaces

Designing Inclusive Outdoor Spaces: Strengthening Equality and Community Access



WHAT IS IT?

Our project focuses on creating inclusive, open spaces for whoever, whether it is residents or even visitors, in the City of North Vancouver. This project is important as it focuses on the short and long-term needs of a rapidly growing community. Due to this growth, it is essential to develop world-class public spaces that cater to the evolving needs of this community. This report provides research and specific, actionable recommendations that may help transform these open spaces into a more accessible and inviting environment. An example of this is providing non-verbal signage to demonstrate amenities such as bathrooms, playgrounds, parking, and exercise equipment for non-English speaking visitors. Another example is to provide shelters over picnic benches and free or low-cost WiFi to be used as outdoor working spaces.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

The City of North Vancouver is one of the fastest growing regions in British Columbia, and as a result, the housing density has increased. Therefore, parks have become a crucial part of the community's urban and outdoor spaces, contributing to their overall health and well-being. By improving these areas, we can unlock maximum benefits for the entire community. This report offers recommendations that are geared towards achieving this goal.

OUTCOMES

Using a mixed method approach, our research found that there is a shift towards higher-density housing and private dwellings to cater for the growing population. These factors provide us with insight as to why future urban planning and the design of public places are important. One key area this research highlighted was the importance of incorporating the needs of the aging population for a healthier and happier well-being, which our recommendations address.

HOW IT WORKS:

This report provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on parks as livable spaces. Six key recommendations outline each program and suggest ways to implement it. This project demonstrates how the city can enhance the parks to increase community connectivity, accessibility, and inclusiveness.

