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Green Rainwater Infrastructure Enhancements in the Still Creek Watershed

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History of the
Still Creek
Watershed

- Watershed Background
- Planning Efforts

Community
Partnerships

- Artist-In-Residence at Elementary Schools
- Non-Profits

Park Designs

- Design Intent
- Beaconsfield
- Slocan
- Falaise
- Charles
- Watershed Impacts

Watershed Overview

-  Salmon not seen
-  Salmon spotted
-  After clicking on spotting location, this symbol to get directions in Google Maps



STILL CREEK WATERSHED BOUNDARIES

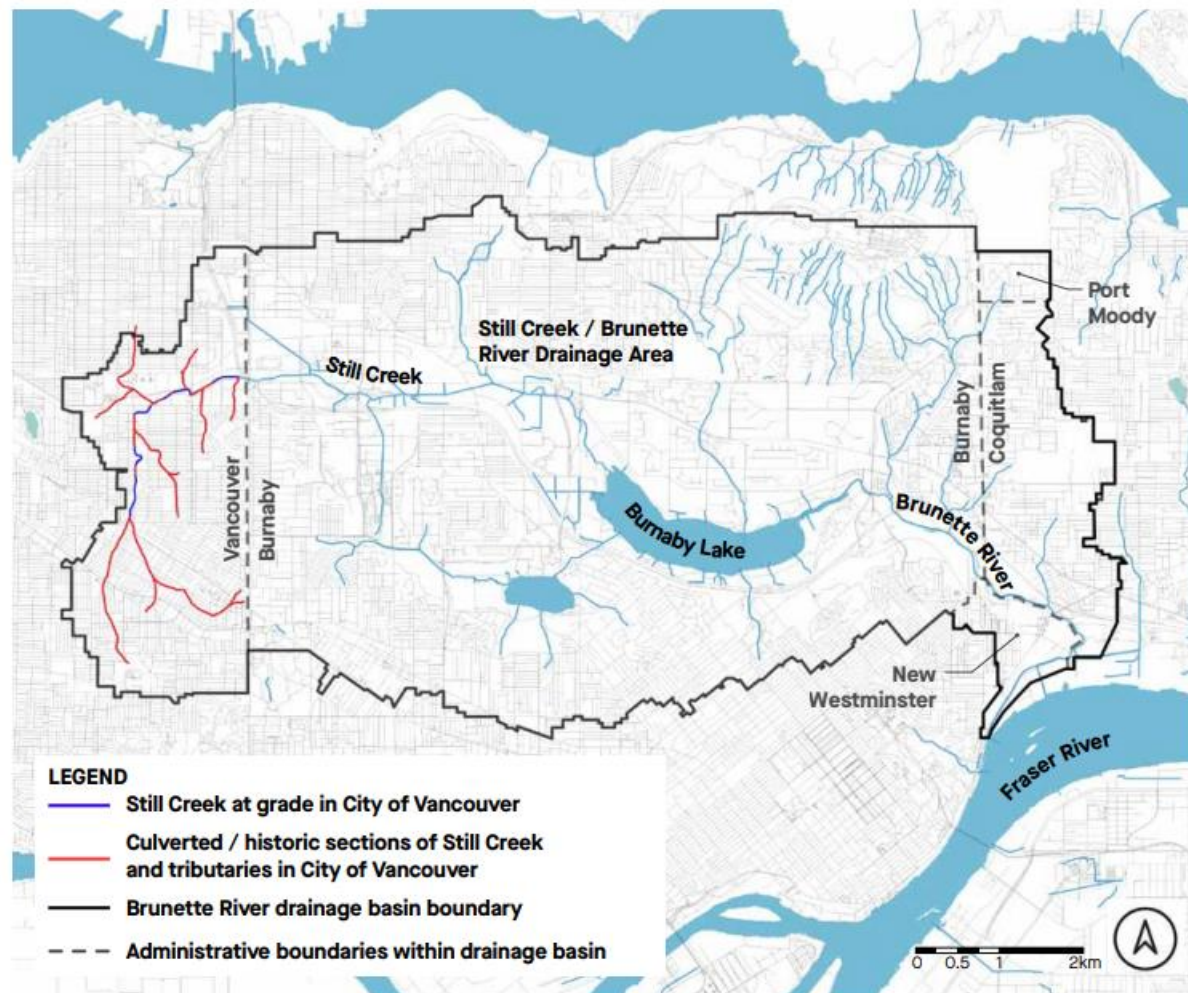
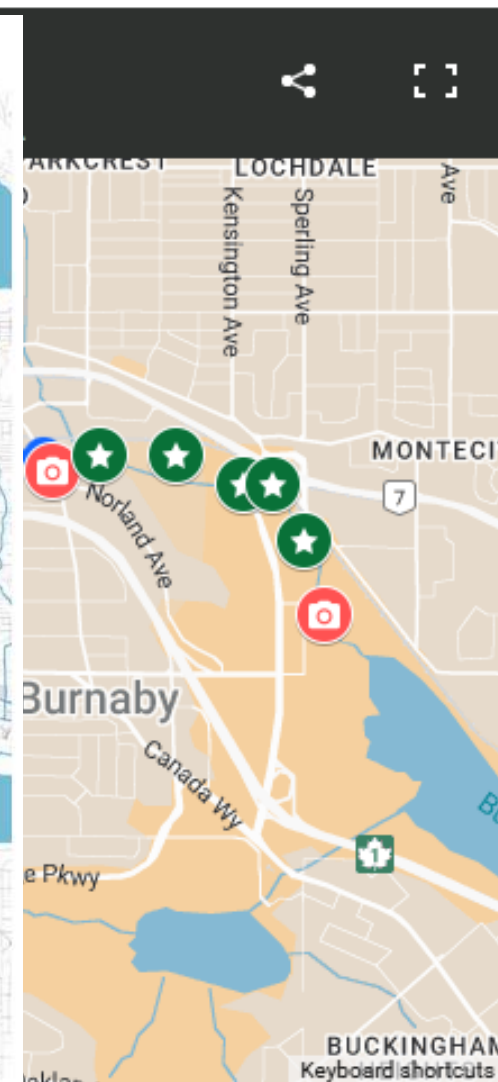
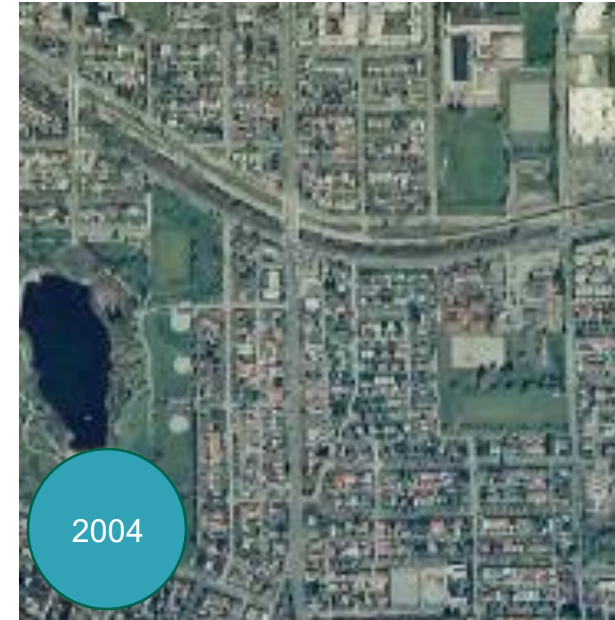


Figure 2-1 Map of the Still Creek watershed within the City of Vancouver, and the larger Still Creek-Brunette River drainage basin



Enclosed During Urbanization



55% Impervious Cover

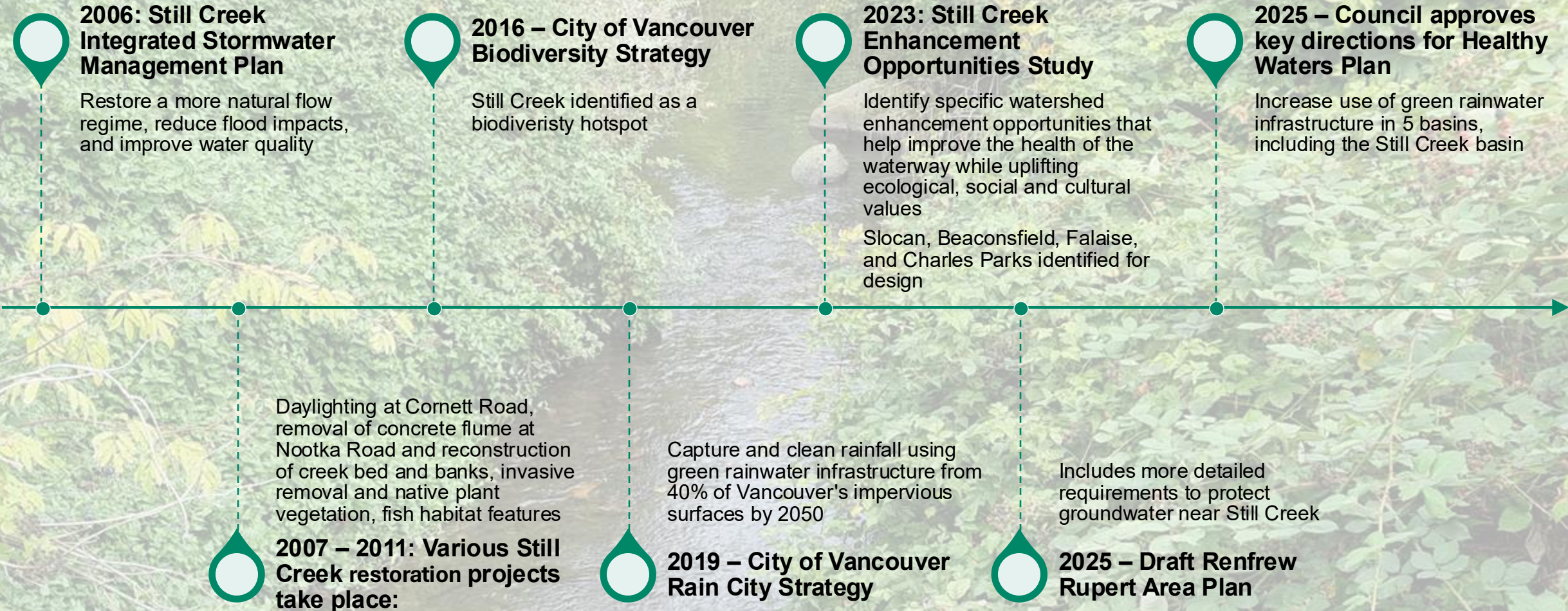


7% Canopy Cover



42° Urban Heat Island

Planning Efforts



Park Locations

LONG LIST OF WATERSHED GRI OPPORTUNITIES

LEGEND

- Parcels
- Parks
- Still Creek above ground
- Still Creek below ground
- Still Creek lost tributaries
- High volume streets
- Blue green system
- Still Creek watershed boundary

Site Type

- GRI in Parks
- GRI in Streets - Arterial
- GRI in Streets - Local

Shortlisted Sites (non-NIP)

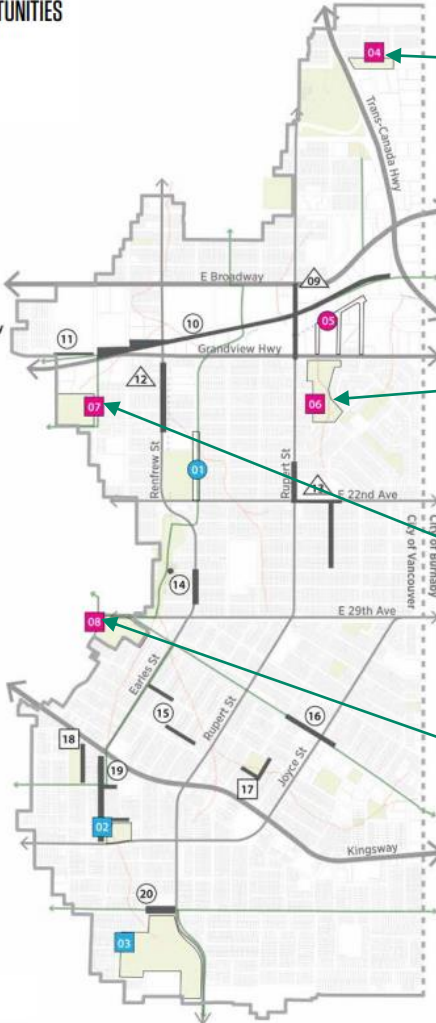
- 01 Nootka St
- 02 Earles Park
- 03 Killarney Park

Natural Infrastructure Fund Sites (NIP)

- 04 Charles Park
- 05 Cornett Rd
- 06 Falaise Park
- 07 Beaconsfield Park
- 08 Slocan Park

Long List sites

- 09 Rupert St
- 10 Hebb Ave
- 11 Grandview Highway North Adjacent to Vancouver Technical Secondary
- 12 Renfrew Ave
- 13 Rupert St / E 22nd Ave / Cassiar St
- 14 Nootka St + 26th Ave Outfall
- 15 Euclid St and Horley St
- 16 Vanness Ave
- 17 Collingwood Park
- 18 Norquay Park
- 19 Earles St
- 20 45th Ave at Killarney Park



Charles Park Wetland



Falaise Park Treatment Terraces and Wetland



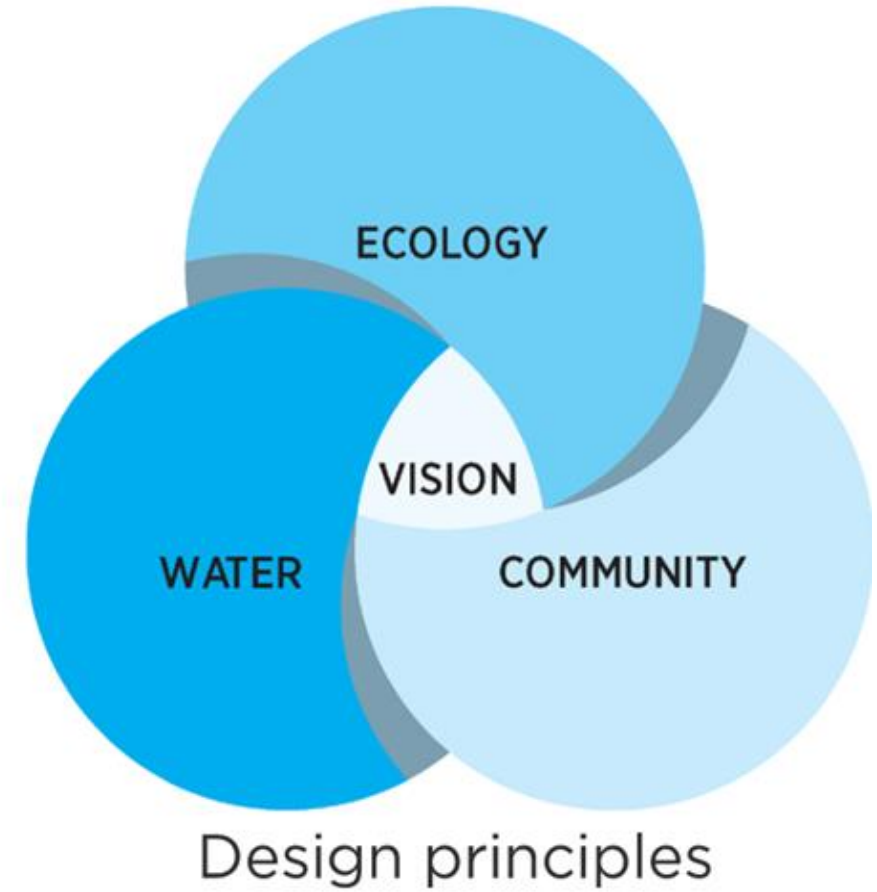
Beaconsfield Park Wetland



Slocan Park Rainland



Park Designs: The Future of Still Creek



Artist-In-Residence Program at Elementary Schools

"Art is a place to connect; it relates to important stuff in my life" - Student



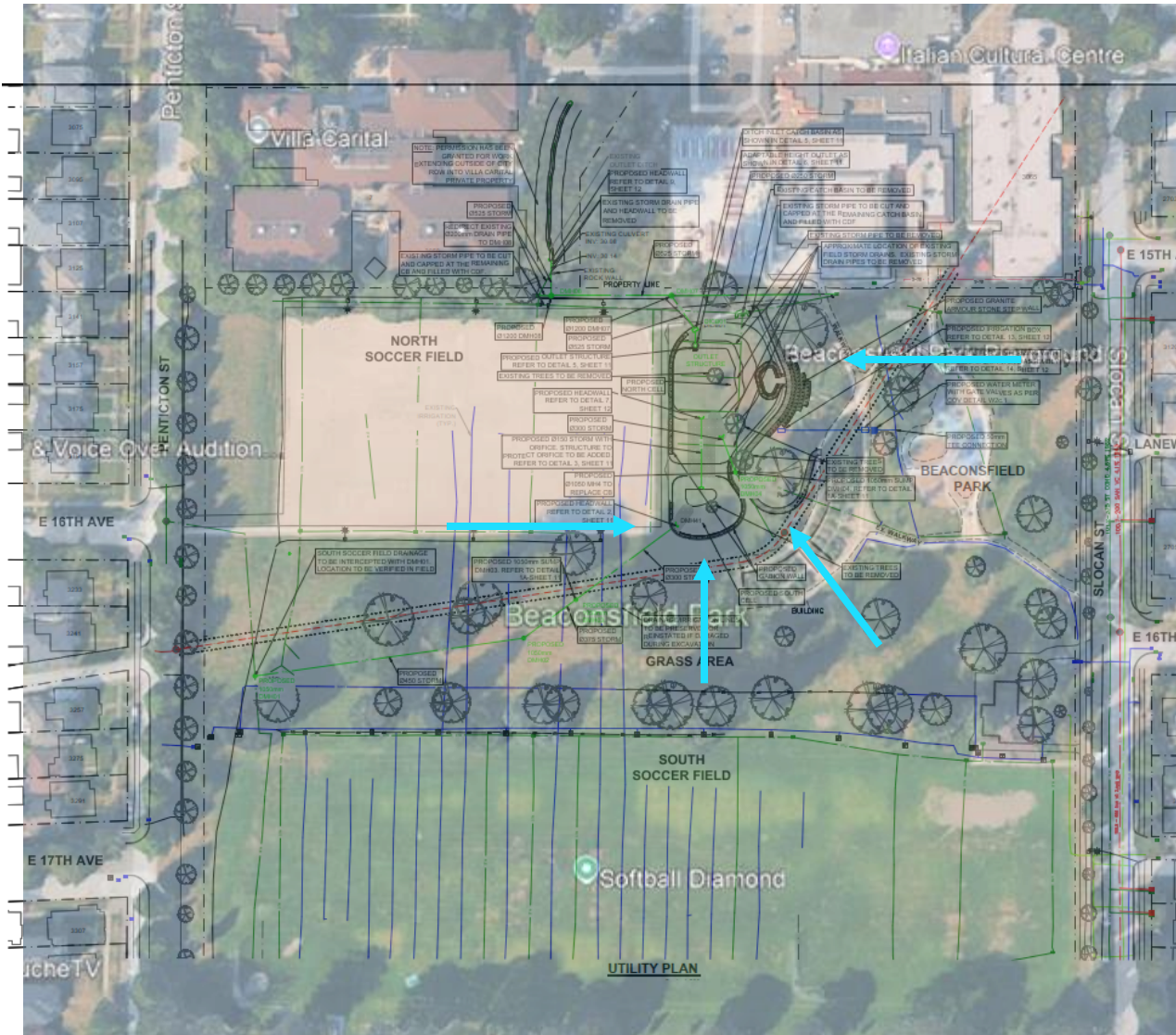
"They were able to see that water is everywhere, they discovered and learned about rain gardens and how important they are in and around the community" - R. Caverzan, Teacher



"Art can capture and advocate for water conservation and give pause and focus to reflect on the beauty and dynamics of something so simple that they take for granted" - Principal Jim Rutley

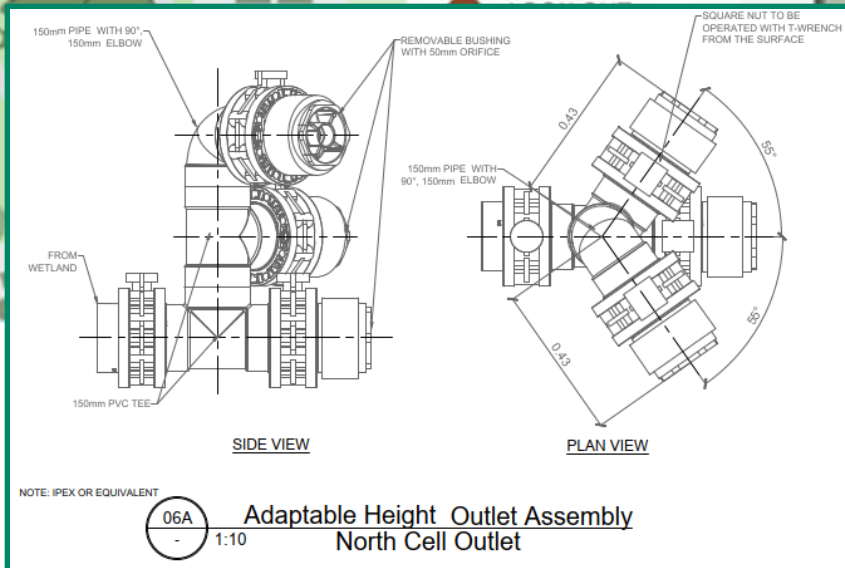
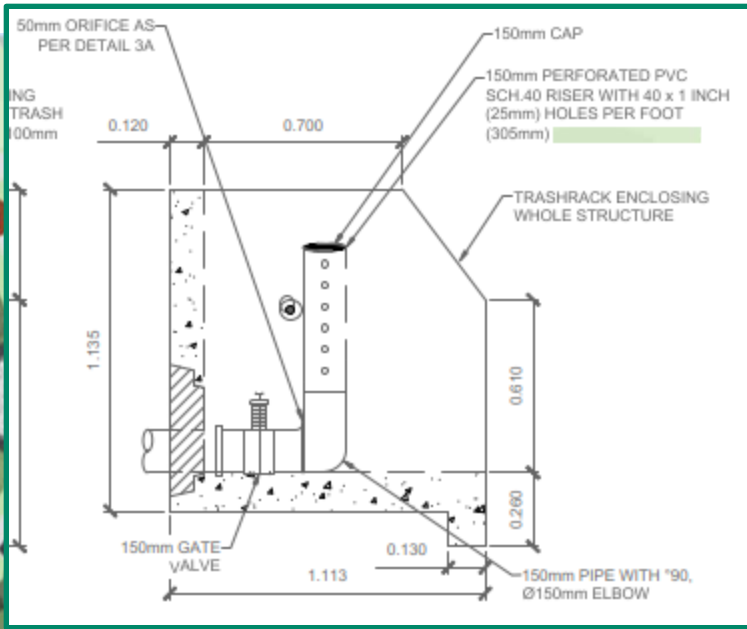


Beaconsfield Park: Existing



Neighbourhood Engagement	Design Goals/Existing Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three community gardening groups • Active sports fields • Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance naturally wet area/prevent nuisance flooding ➤ Low infiltration rates ➤ Adapt to varying groundwater levels ➤ Maximize water treatment within limited footprint (surrounding steep slopes/infrastructure/soccer field) ➤ Creating a programming space ➤ Use native plant palettes

Beaconsfield Park: Design



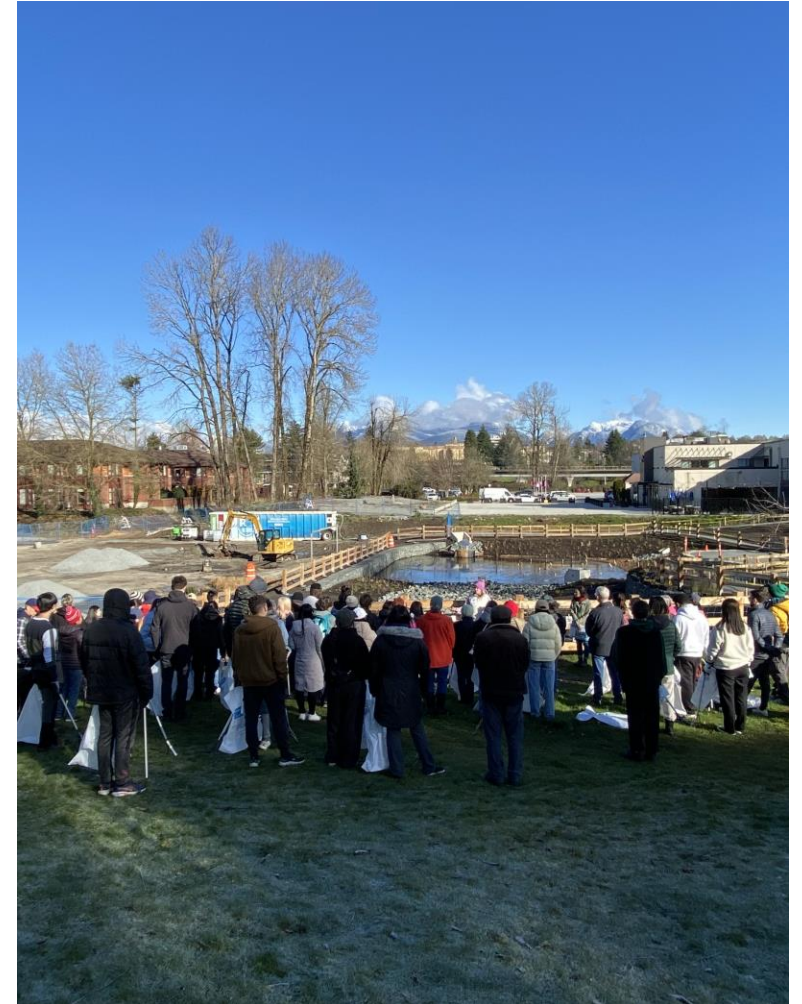
- Ephemeral wetland expresses the natural water cycle and reduces seasonal flooding issues within the park
- Two cells to maximize water storage and treatment
- Use of retaining walls to integrate within existing grades
- Modeling of hydraulic grade line in downstream sewer
- Adaptive outlet structure allows for varying permanent pool level according to groundwater
- Three wetland planting zones/soil types to encourage and support biodiversity
- Amphitheatre and pathways space welcomes community groups and schools to enrich understanding and connections to natural landscapes

~600 m³ of water detained and/or treated
 ~1,000 m² of new plantings within the wetland

Beaconsfield Park: Progress to Date



Community Participation



Slocan Park: Existing



Neighbourhood Engagement

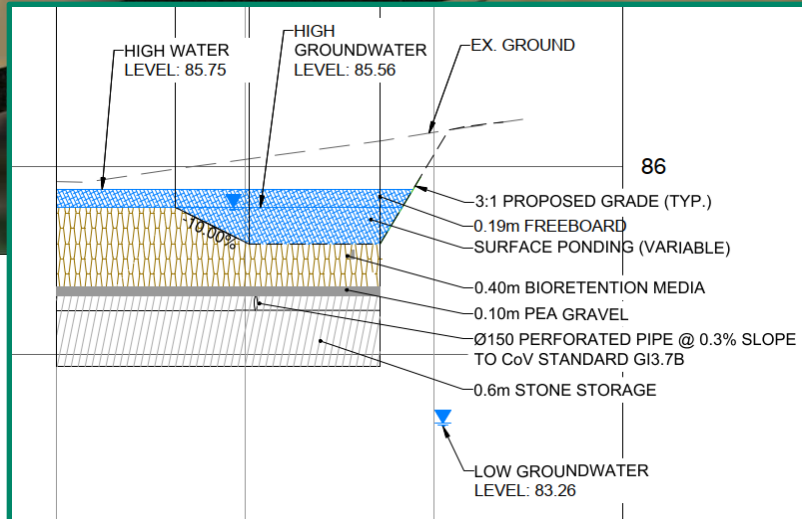
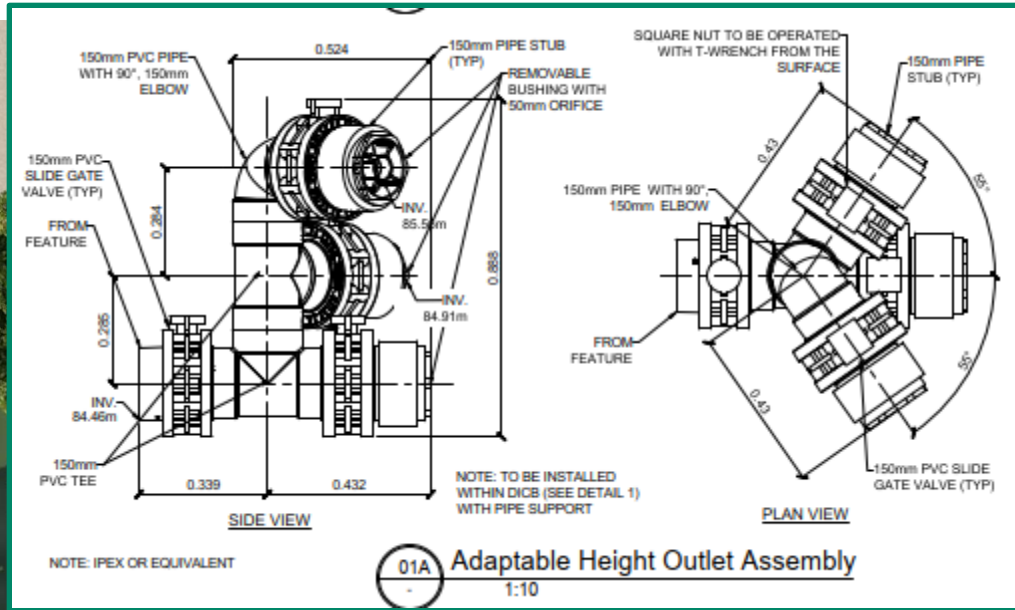
- Informal recreation
- Youth hub/Skate park proposed
- Home base of Still Moon Arts Society

Design Goals/Existing Conditions

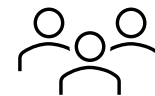
- Maximum treatment of road runoff
- Low infiltration rates
- Build to accept future park hardscape drainage
- Adapt to varying groundwater levels
- Addition of benches and formalized pathway
- Show moon phases via water level!



Slocan Park: Design

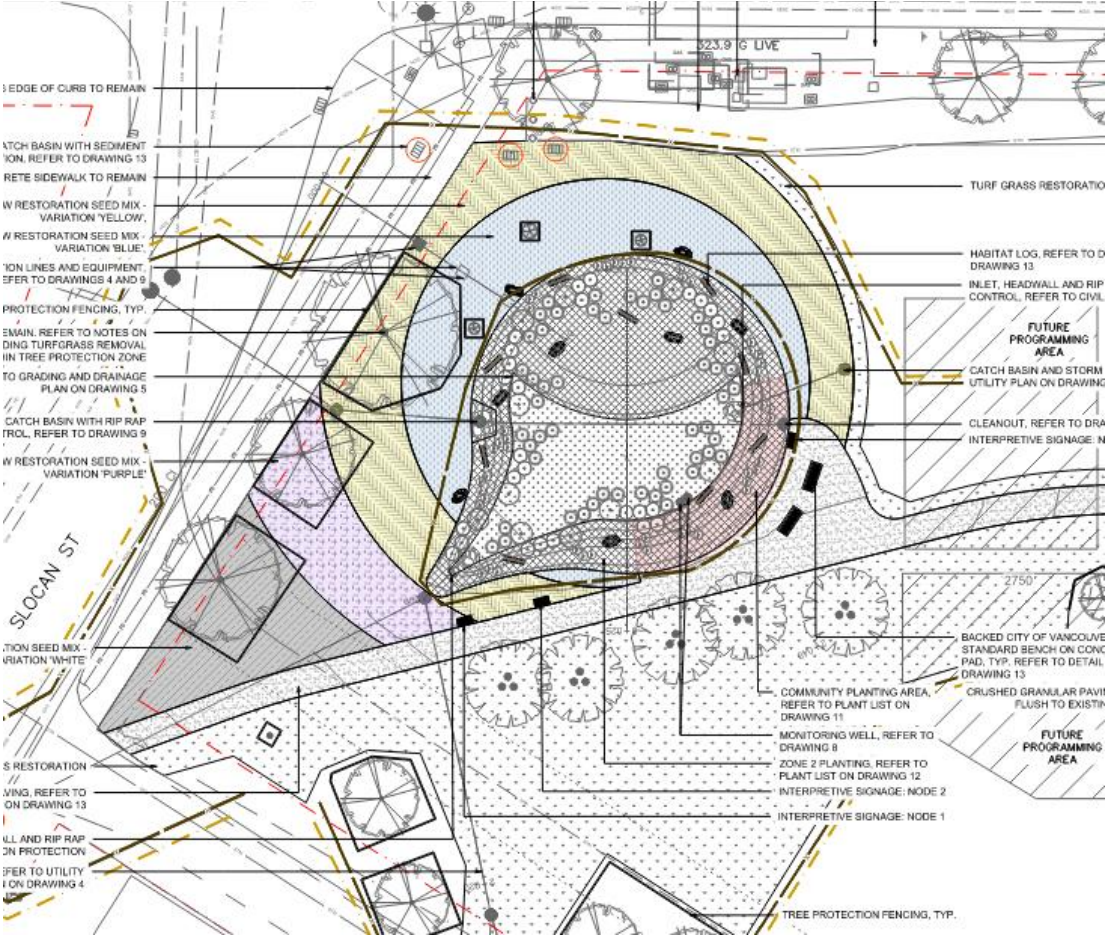


- Acts as bioretention in low groundwater and wetland in high groundwater conditions
- Adaptive outlet structure allows for varying permanent pool level according to groundwater
- Modeling of hydraulic grade line in downstream sewer
- Fluctuating water levels creates a crescent moon shape
- Plantings provide food, water, and shelter to native pollinators, in particular native bees
- Pathway and seating encourage engagement with the park space



~200 m³ of water treated and/or infiltrated
~1,000 m² of new plantings within and around the feature

Slocan Park: Progress to date



Falaise Park: Existing



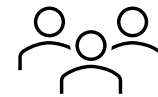
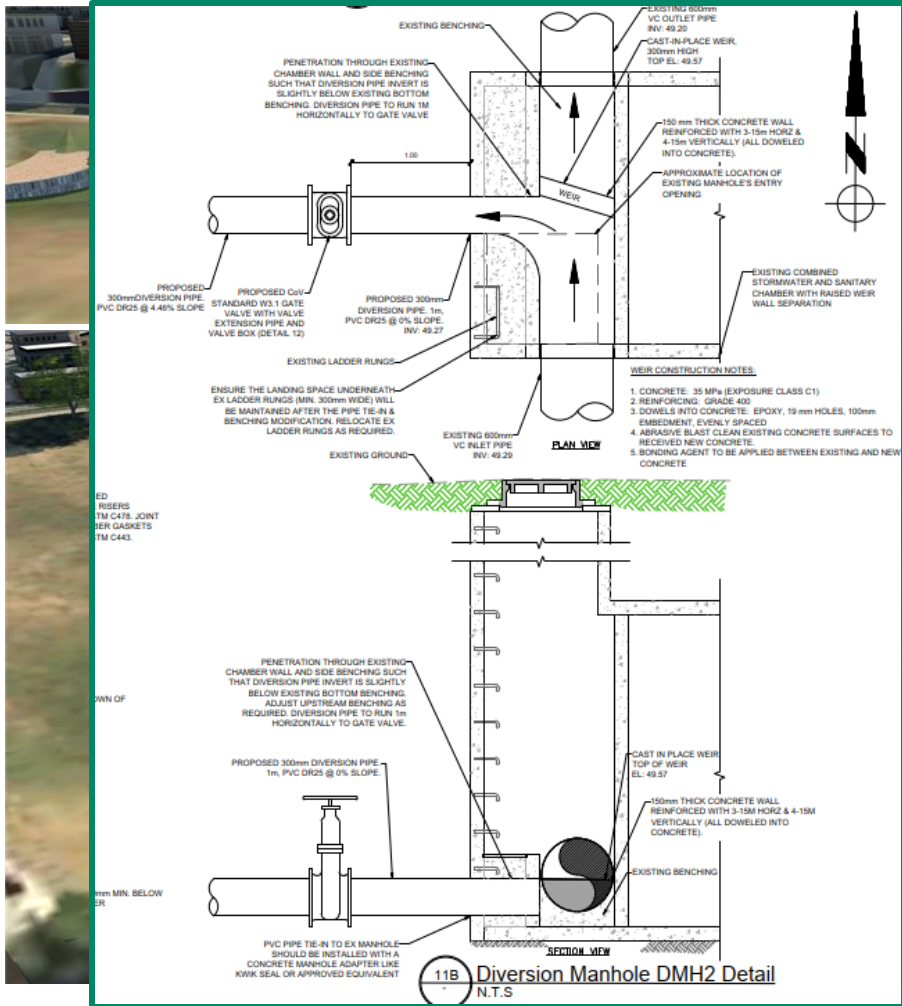
Neighbourhood Engagement

- High use by children, families, dogs
- Existing features (channel and basin) are overgrown
- Underhoused people sometimes use the project footprint

Design Goals/Existing Conditions

- Maximize treatment of road runoff
- Low infiltration rates
- Adapt to varying groundwater levels
- Maintain family use areas of the park
- Expand naturalized areas to support habitat refuge
- Use vegetation to dissuade undesired park uses

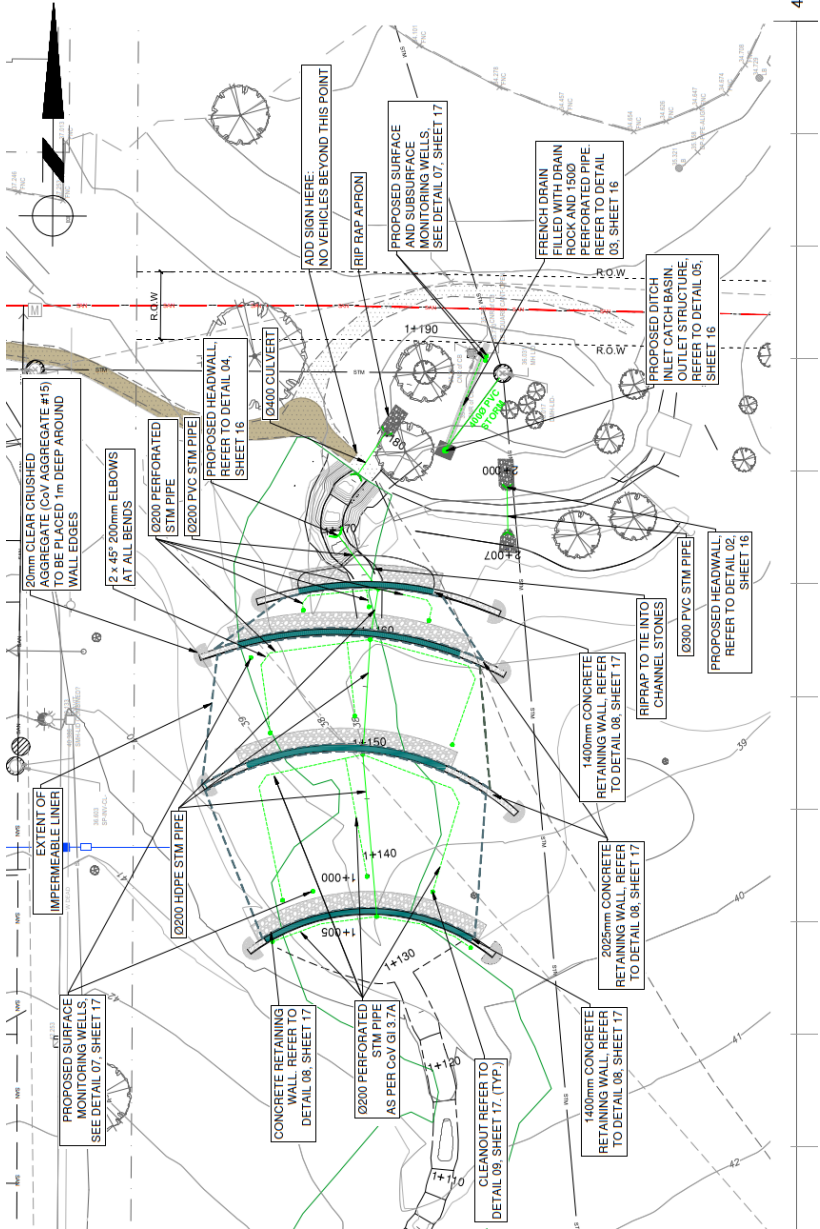
Falaise Park: Proposed Design



- Diversion of upstream road runoff, pretreatment with OGS unit
- A natural channel design echoes the historical stream that ran through the park
- Bioretention terraces provide water quality benefits
- Modeling of hydraulic grade line upstream of diversion manhole
- Wetland environment supports habitat for key species, such as the pacific tree frog
- Treatment of invasive species
- Encourages relationships with nature through interactions along the pathway and maintains existing park usage by the community

~2,000 m³ of water treated and/or detained
 ~3,000 m² of new plantings within the feature

Falaise Park: Progress to date



Falaise Park Plant Reclamation



Charles Park: Existing



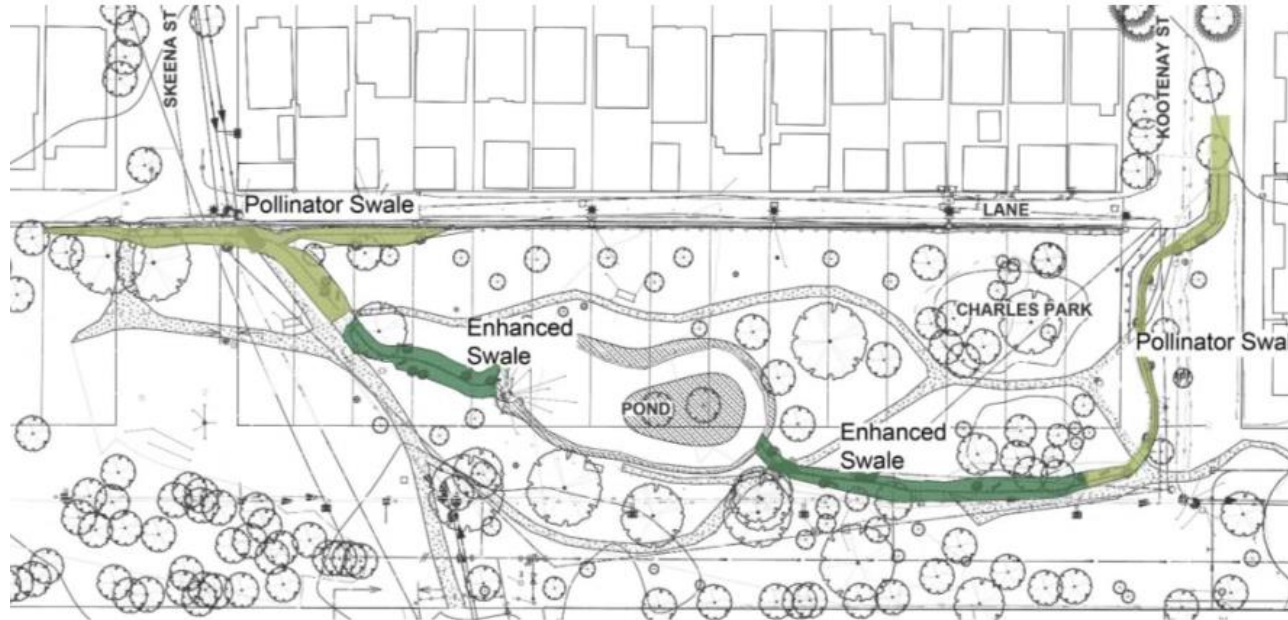
Neighbourhood Engagement

- Passive recreation

Design Goals

- Maintain character and current site use
- Maximum treatment of road runoff despite very minimal grade change
- Enhance the functionality of the current feature

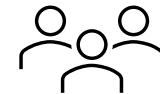
Charles Park: Design



Pollinator Swale



Enhanced Swale



- Existing pond to be transformed into a wetland to restore a natural hydrological regime that avoids eutrophication
- Diversion of upstream road runoff, pretreatment with sediment pads
- Given minimal grade change, a series of swales will divert runoff from surrounding areas
- The wetland will be a hub for native marshland and forest-dependent birds
- Treatment of invasive species
- Area is an educational resource that links water, biodiversity and human health for the community

Planting and Soil Strategies

Floating and emergent wetland plants



Sedges



Marsh cinquefoil



Skunk cabbage



Common cattail



Pacific willow



Yellow pond-lily

Wet meadow plants



Bog aster



Lady fern



Red osier dogwood



Pink spirea



Salmonberry



Black twinberry

Rain garden wet zone plants



Mensie's Burnet



Scouring rush



Bullrush



King's Scepter Gentian



Lyalls angelica



Small bedstraw

Drought-tolerant meadow plants



Common yarrow



Meadowfoam



Purple coneflower



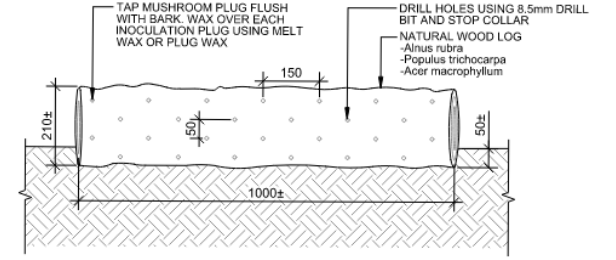
Baby blue eyes



Black eyed susan



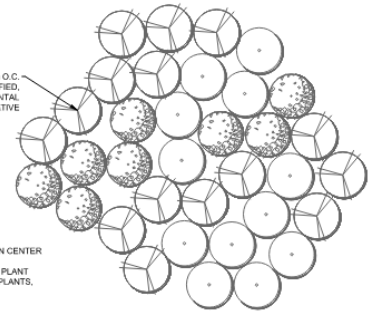
Sweet alyssum



07 HABITAT LOG

SCALE

PROPOSED SHRUB, TYP. 1500mm O.C. SPACING UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, TO BE CONFIRMED WITH DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE



- NOTES:
1. RANDOM PLANTING PATTERN - 1.5m ON CENTER OR AS NOTED IN PLANT LIST.
 2. DO NOT PLANT IN ROWS - DISTRIBUTE PLANT SPECIES IN GROUPS OF A MINIMUM 3 PLANTS, MAXIMUM 10 PLANTS.
 3. DISTRIBUTE EACH SPECIES EVENLY.

05 RANDOMIZED PLANTING

21 NTS

Maintenance and Stewardship

- Maintenance through GRI contractors, augmented by stewardship support
- BC Wildlife Federation provided 2-day training for stewardship groups on wetland monitoring, maintenance and outreach, using Still Creek wetlands as a living classroom
- Still Moon Arts Society will facilitate long term stewardship:
 - Hands-on community planting events
 - Work with students at nearby elementary schools to become long-term stewards



Conclusions: Watershed Impacts

Improve water quality by capturing and filtering the first flush of rainfall before it enters Still Creek

Detain flow to reduce peak volumes

Amenities such as pathways, lookout nodes and educational signage help to improve personal connections to nature in an equity-focused watershed

Strong collaboration between GI Group and Parks as well as Engineers and Landscape Architects

~2,800 m³ of water will be treated and
~5,000 m² of planting area will increase biodiversity



Thank you!

Three parks (Beaconsfield, Slocan and Falaise) will be constructed soon, with Charles Park to follow. Please come visit!

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