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ABOUT THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY

The Vancouver Sport Field Strategy has been undertaken to:

- Better understand the current state of sport fields in Vancouver.
- Establish priorities and focus areas for both infrastructure (*the sport fields themselves*) and management (*how the Park Board maintains, operates and/or facilitates access to fields*).
- Maximize good use of limited resources.
- Guide sport field development, management and maintenance decision making for the next 10+ years.

PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT

In this current phase of engagement, we want your feedback on:

- Five “big moves” which will inform the significant capital project types within the strategy’s implementation plan; and,
- A list of potential capital projects for the most significant big moves. We are seeking input on strengths and challenges of these potential projects.

Please review the materials below and complete the survey [here](#).

WHERE ARE WE IN THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY PROCESS?



We acknowledge that the sport fields and other facilities we discuss in this project are built on the unceded territories and homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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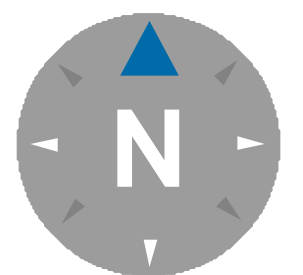
THE EXISTING SPORT FIELD CONTEXT IN VANCOUVER

SPORT FIELD LOCATIONS IN VANCOUVER

LEGEND

- Parks
- ◆ Ball Diamond (D)
- Rectangular Field (R)

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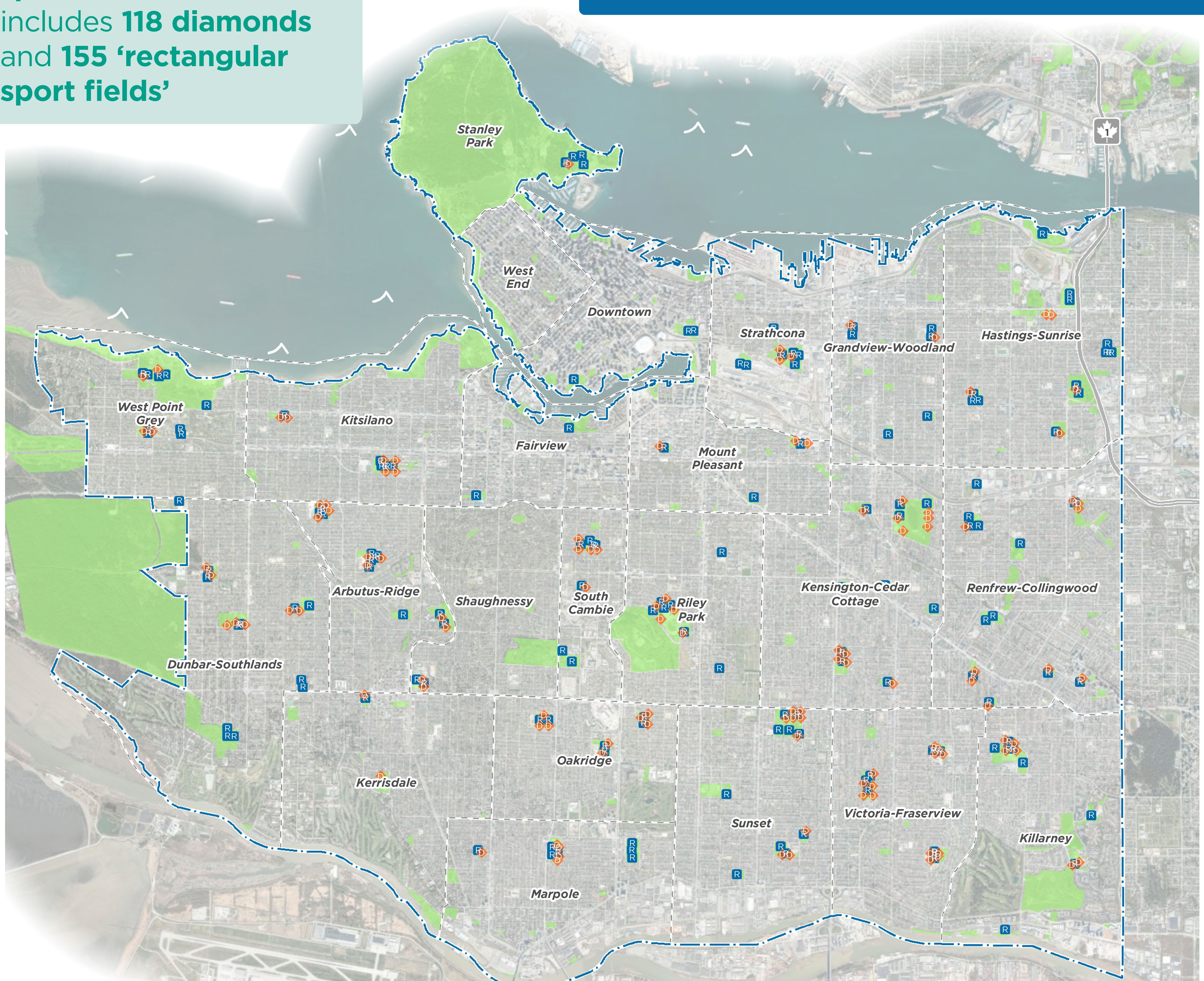


DID YOU KNOW?

The Park Board manages **272 bookable sport field sites**. This includes **118 diamonds** and **155 'rectangular sport fields'**

Sport Field Strategy

Sport fields are defined as open surface areas (natural grass, synthetic grass, or gravel) used for organized or unorganized sport activities and play.

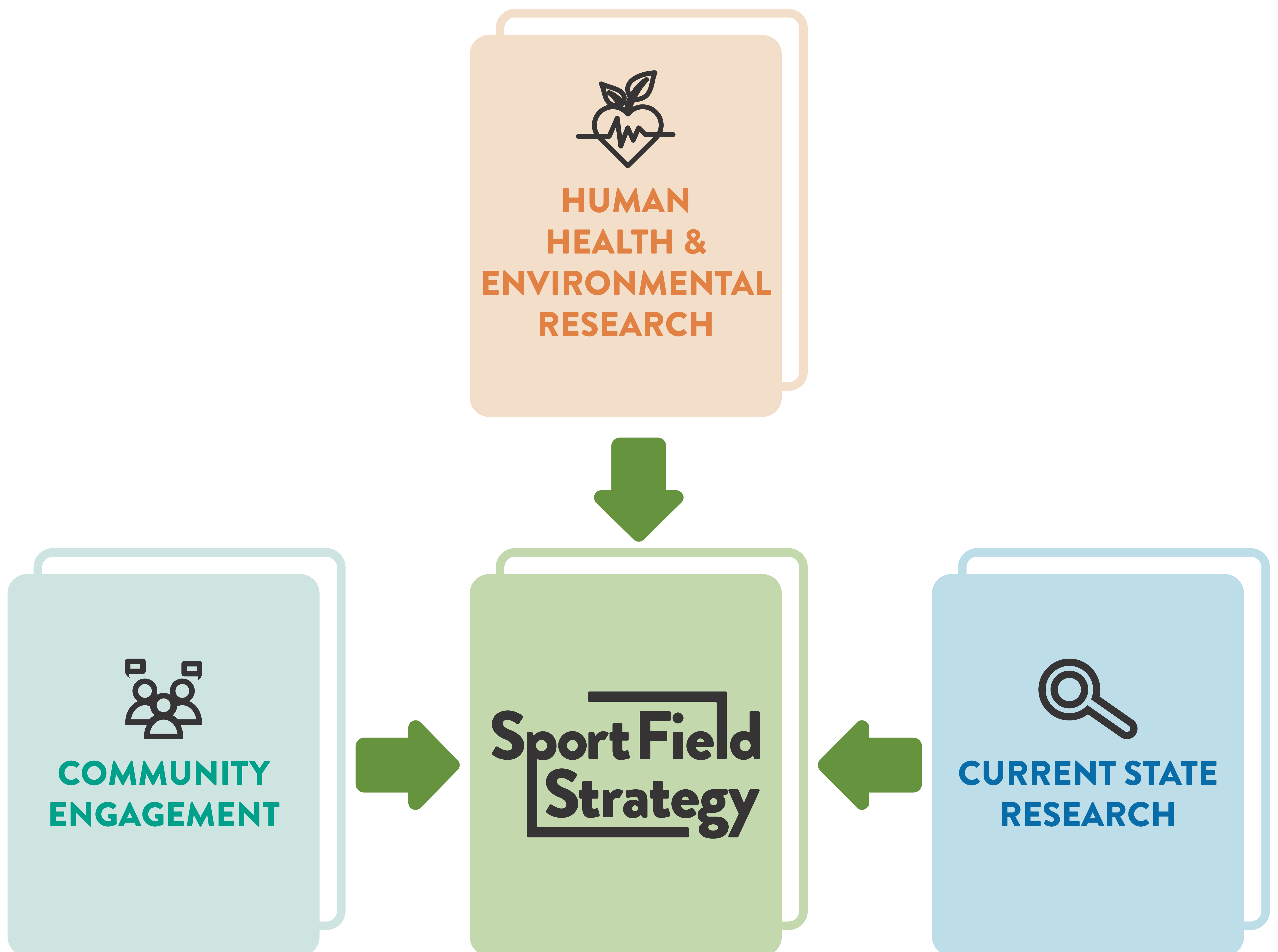


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DEVELOPING THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY

WHAT INFORMED THE DRAFT SPORT FIELD STRATEGY?

The Sport Field Strategy is being developed using information gathered through community engagement and through other research and analysis.



Key findings from the above research, engagement, and analysis can be found on the [Phase 2 information boards](#). You can view more detailed engagement information in [our What We Heard Phase 1 Engagement Report](#) and [our Phase 2 What We Heard Engagement Report](#).

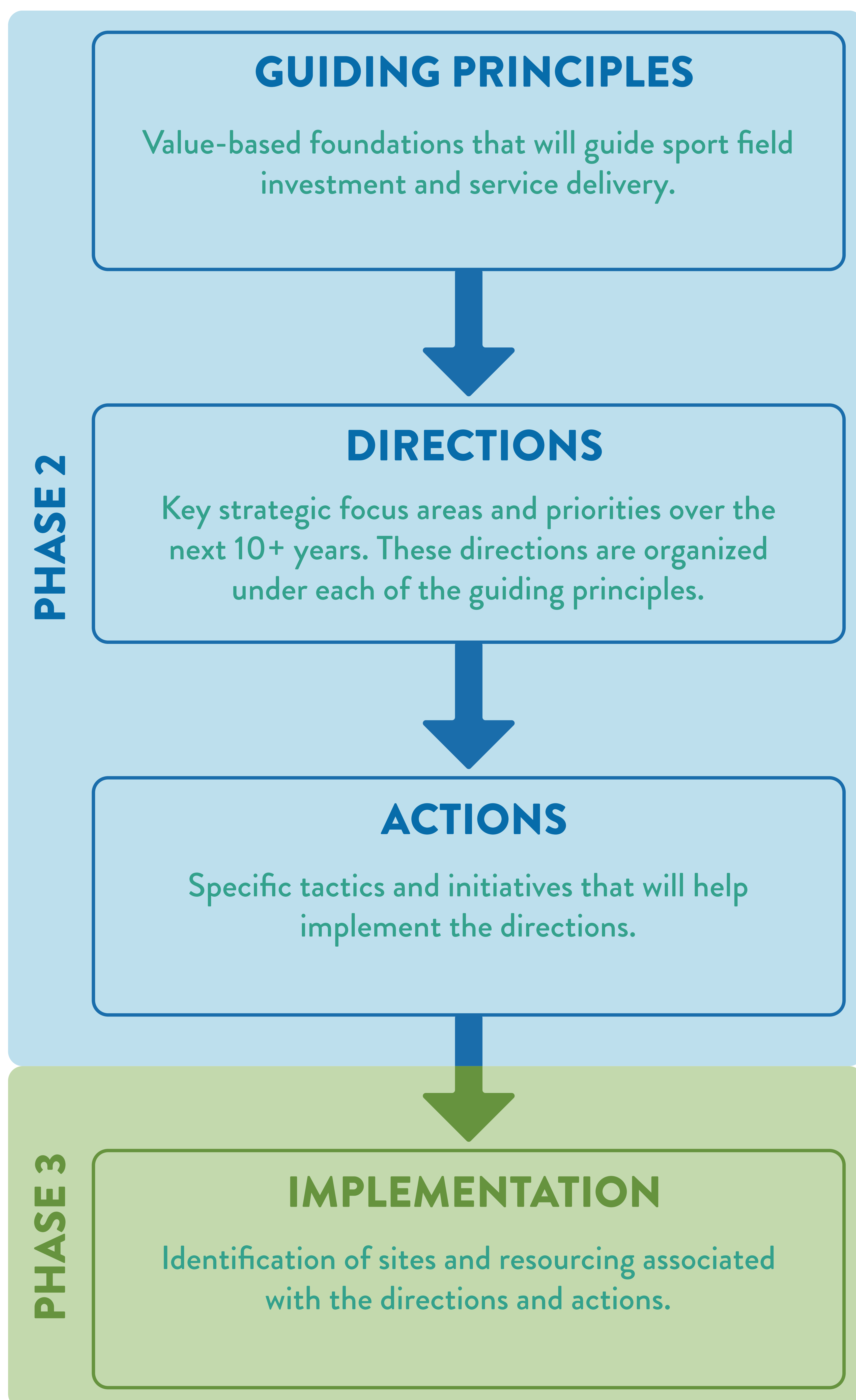
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PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

A survey was available from March 28 to April 11, 2023 through Shape Your City to get feedback on the draft strategy foundations, including the:

- **DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- **DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS**
- **DRAFT SITE SELECTION CRITERIA**

In total, 415 people responded to the public survey, including 14 representatives of specific user groups. The materials were also reviewed with the Vancouver Field Sport Federation (VFSF).



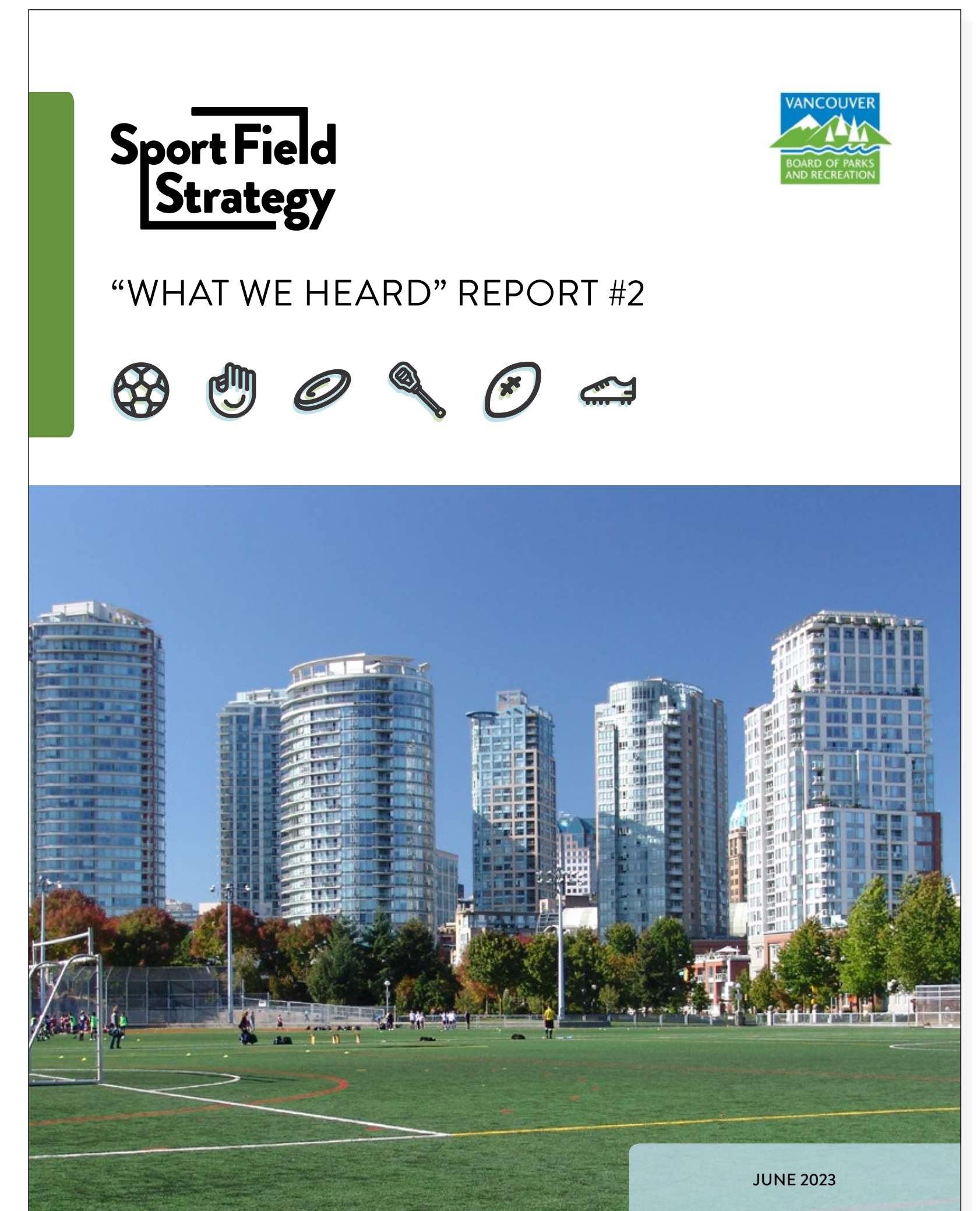
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PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT KEY FINDINGS

Highlights from the survey are below.

For more details about the engagement, please check out our “What We Heard” Report #2.

- All five of the guiding principles were deemed very important or somewhat important by over 86% of respondents. “Optimally managing the system of sport fields” (95%) and “providing great sport field experiences for all” (94%) were identified as the two most important guiding principles.
- All nine of the directions were deemed as very important or somewhat important by at least 66% of respondents. “Focusing available capital resources on field quality and adding functional capacity”, “implementing an equity model for allocations, bookings, and permitting of fields” and “renewing and increasing the supply of synthetic turf” were identified as the three most important directions, with over 87% of respondents indicating that they are very important or somewhat important.
- Each of the six site selection criteria presented were identified as being very important or somewhat important by over 79% of respondents. The site selection criteria presented in Phase 2 engagement can be found [here](#).



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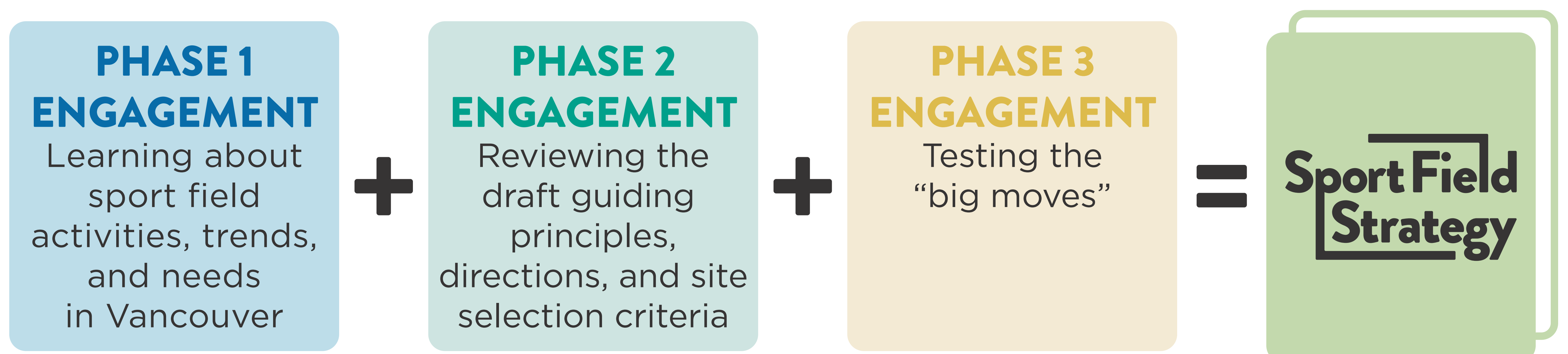
PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT KEY FINDINGS

(CONTINUED)

HOW DID THE FEEDBACK FROM PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT HELP GUIDE THE DRAFT STRATEGY?

- Confirmed that the draft strategy foundations (guiding principles, directions, and actions) and site selection criteria reflect the values of residents and sport organizations in Vancouver.
- Identified areas that need clarification.
- Helped us understand which site selection criteria are most important to the public and user groups.
- Led to the development of one new site selection criteria.

THE 3 PHASES OF ENGAGEMENT ARE HELPING US BUILD THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY



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SITE SELECTION CRITERIA REFINEMENT

Based on what we heard through engagement and ongoing analysis, we have added one additional criteria: existing field bookings. This criteria reflects the importance of considering existing levels of field use when looking at sites for enhancement or other actions.

THE REFINED SITE SELECTION CRITERIA LIST

Overall screening criteria: site test fit (does it fit?)

- *For a proposed project to be viable it must physically fit on the site*

Site-specific criteria:

- Pre-development conditions (what's there now?)
 - » *Does the physical condition of the site support a new or upgraded field? Is it a "typical" site, or does the site condition add cost or complexity to the project?*
- Existing complementary infrastructure (i.e. washrooms, community centre access)
 - » *Is the project supported by existing amenities or programming?*
- Impact on existing uses or programs
 - » *Does the project require removal or significant modification to another existing park use? Is there displacement of another type of sport field or park use?*
- Transportation access
 - » *Is the site easily accessible by all modes of transportation?*
- **Existing level of field bookings **New, based on input from Phase 2 engagement***
 - » ***Are fields on a site being over or underused?***
 - » ***Does the site require investment to support its current level of use?***

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SITE SELECTION CRITERIA REFINEMENT (CONTINUED)

System-wide criteria:

- Supported by policy and planning
 - » *Do other Park Board and City plans and policies support the potential project?*
- Geographic distribution and gaps
 - » *Does the project help address an identified geographic gap?*
- Equity gaps and considerations
 - » *Is the project location well suited to serve equity denied groups?*



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SITE SELECTION CRITERIA REFINEMENT (CONTINUED)

HOW WE USED THE SITE SELECTION CRITERIA?

- Have been used to identify potential projects for the “big moves”, particularly #2 and #3 (boards 15-21).
- Will be used in the future to:
 - » Further prioritize and short list projects after Phase 3 engagement.
 - » Identify smaller field improvement projects which will be included in the final strategy.
 - » Test sites that emerge as potential locations for new or upgraded sport fields after the Sport Field Strategy is completed.



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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL SPORT FIELD CAPITAL PROJECTS

The focus of this phase of engagement is on the “big moves” - proposals for categories of field projects which will result in significant changes to both specific fields and the system as a whole. Boards 15-21 include information on the five big moves and examples of potential major capital projects. Smaller site improvements for other fields will also be included in the final strategy.

IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS RELATED TO THE BIG MOVES

The potential projects related to the “big moves” have varying levels of complexity, impacts on other park programming and amenities, and costs (capital and operational costs).

The final strategy will include an implementation plan with a shorter list of projects in the order of priority. This list will be based on technical information, conversations with partners such as the Vancouver School Board and the Vancouver Field Sport Federation, and funding sources. Feedback received through the current phase of public engagement will also be considered.

This prioritized list will direct capital planning goals for ball diamonds and playfields for the next 10 years, however this does not guarantee funding will be allocated (see the “How does the Sport Field Strategy fit into the capital planning process?” call-out box on the next board).



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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL SPORT FIELD CAPITAL PROJECTS

(CONTINUED)

2022 ONGOING BOARD-MOTION-DIRECTED SPORT FIELD PROJECTS

In a **December 5, 2022 Motion**, the elected Park Board directed staff to initiate a number of specific projects (“motion projects”). These include:

- *Sport field lights at Hillcrest mini-turf field and Kitsilano High School fields.*
- *Sport field areas outlined in the John Hendry Master Plan, with a focus on the renewal of the multi-sports field north and the two east Little League diamonds.*
- *Renewal of VanTech synthetic turf field.*
- *Planning for a new artificial turf sports field in southeast Vancouver, ideally to be located at Moberly School or Ross Park.*

The motion projects are parallel to the development of the Sport Field Strategy. The strategy’s implementation plan will provide a sequenced and prioritized list of additional projects. The elected Board will be the decision maker on which of the specific motion projects and the additional projects prioritized by the strategy will be delivered in the current capital budget.

FIFA WORLD CUP

Vancouver has been selected as one of 16 host cities for the 26th **FIFA World Cup**, to be hosted in 2026. Further details are expected in the coming months and there will be related considerations in the final implementation plan for the Sport Field Strategy.

HOW DOES THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY FIT INTO THE CAPITAL PLANNING PROCESS?

The **Capital Plan** is a four-year financial plan for investments in the city’s infrastructure and amenities, set every four years by City Council, with input from Park Board for parks and recreation projects.

Capital projects included in the final Strategy’s implementation plan will be considered in future Capital Plan planning, along with other projects from across the different City service areas. Project inclusion in this Strategy does not guarantee funding by Park Board and Council. Previous Capital Plans have typically included sufficient funding for 1-2 major sport field projects. Using this Strategy as a guide, the Park Board will target a realistic number of sport field implementation projects per Capital Plan.

Projects in this Strategy will also be considered for funding from other sources, such as from grants or higher levels of government, if and when that funding is available.

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THE “BIG MOVES”

THERE ARE FIVE “BIG MOVES”:

1. Renew existing synthetic turf fields
2. Convert select all weather (gravel) fields to synthetic turf fields
3. Create hub sites
4. Establish dedicated ball diamond and rectangular field parks
5. Establish sport-specific priority fields



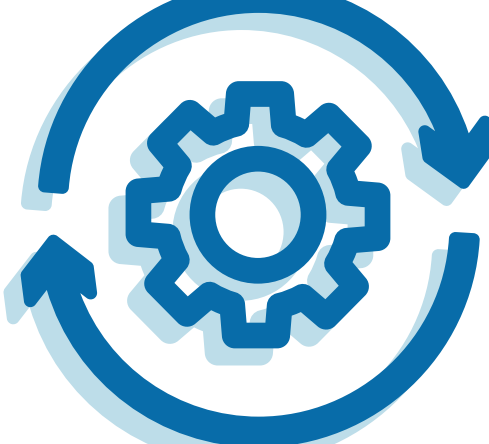
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THE “BIG MOVES” (CONTINUED)


HOW DO THE BIG MOVES ADVANCE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE SPORT FIELD STRATEGY?


The five “big moves” will enable the Park Board to invest in and deliver sport field opportunities in a way that achieves key objectives embedded in the guiding principles and directions. ***Alignment with the directions is reflected using icons for each “big move”.***

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 

1 Optimally manage the system of sport fields.
- 

2 Provide great sport field experiences for all.
- 

3 Effectively plan for the future and make the best value of capital resources.
- 

4 Leverage the broader benefits of sport fields.



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THE “BIG MOVES”

(CONTINUED)

DIRECTIONS



1. Implement a renewed Sport Field Classification System.




2. Seek opportunities to apply a revenue generating strategy lens.



3. Implement an equity model for allocation, booking, and permitting of fields.




4. Facilitate spontaneous use of sports fields and ball diamonds for residents.



5. Focus available capital resources on field quality and adding functional capacity.




6. Renew and increase supply of synthetic turf.



7. Work with local Nations and the urban Indigenous population to increase the ways in which the sport field inventory reflects Indigenous culture and sports.



8. Enhance collaboration with key local and regional partners in the planning, delivery and maintenance of sports fields.



9. Continue to leverage sport hosting opportunities.

Some of these directions will be applied more strongly to other actions in the Strategy. The following pages highlight those actions most directly tied to each of the big moves.

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BIG MOVE #1: RENEW EXISTING SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS

DIRECTIONS ALIGNMENT



**The bolded directions icons reflect those most strongly advanced by this big move. See board 14 for a description of each direction.*

RATIONALE:

Many of the synthetic turf fields’ surfaces are past or nearing manufacturer’s lifespan and need renewal. Community engagement (**Phases 1** and 2) along with research on human health and environment (**Phase 2**) support the continued use of synthetic turf to maximize use of available lands and meet community sport needs, including year-round play.

Renewal of synthetic turf fields means replacing synthetic field surfaces that are past their lifespan with new surfacing that meets current standards and ensuring that the field best aligns with current user needs. Renewals ensure the fields are safe and have the right amenities, maximizing year-round sport field opportunities.

Potential sites

Vancouver Technical Secondary School (“Van Tech”) Synthetic Turf Field

Andy Livingstone Synthetic Turf (East and West Fields)

Jericho West Synthetic Turf Field

Memorial South Synthetic Turf Field

Trillium Synthetic Turf (East and West Fields)

HOW WILL SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD RENEWAL PRIORITY SITES BE DETERMINED?

The Sport Field Strategy’s final implementation plan will propose an order for renewals based on several factors including surface age, risk mitigation, improved drainage and minimized user group disruption.

Synthetic turf fields typically have a 10-12 year lifespan, with the longevity impacted by the intensity of use, type of use, and location (e.g. amount of sun, rain, etc.). A number of the Park Board-managed synthetic turf fields are past this general lifespan timeframe and will require renewal in the near term.

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BIG MOVE #2: CONVERT SELECT ALL WEATHER (GRAVEL) FIELDS TO SYNTHETIC TURF

DIRECTIONS ALIGNMENT



**The bolded directions icons reflect those most strongly advanced by this big move. See board 14 for a description of each direction.*

RATIONALE:

User groups have expressed concerns over playability and risk of injury on all weather fields, which were typically installed prior to wider development of synthetic turf.

They are often in parks with complementary infrastructure and amenities such as parking, lighting, and community centres which makes these fields good candidates for synthetic turf.

Existing all weather fields that are not included as potential sites did not adequately meet the site selection criteria including size of the existing field and lack of supporting infrastructure.

Conversion of select all weather fields to synthetic turf fields means, for each select location, developing a new synthetic turf field in the same location where an existing all weather field is currently. In some cases, field amenities may also be upgraded.

Existing all weather fields that are not included as potential sites did not adequately meet the site selection criteria including size of the existing field and lack of supporting infrastructure.





BIG MOVE #2: CONVERT SELECT ALL WEATHER (GRAVEL) FIELDS TO SYNTHETIC TURF (CONTINUED)

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Potential sites	Site selection criteria most strongly met	Potential challenges or constraints
Beaconsfield Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-development condition (preferred field size, lights) Existing complementary infrastructure (washrooms) • Transportation access 	
John Hendry Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-development condition (meets minimum size, lights) • Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) • Transportation access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible geotechnical constraints (pre-development condition) • Only minimum field size recommended for conversion
Killarney Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-development condition (preferred field size, lights) • Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) • Transportation access 	
Oak Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-development condition (meets minimum size, lights) • Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) • Transportation access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only minimum field size recommended for conversion

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BIG MOVE #3: CREATE HUB SITES

DIRECTIONS ALIGNMENT



**The bolded directions icons reflect those most strongly advanced by this big move. See board 14 for a description of each direction.*

RATIONALE:

Providing three or more quality fields at a park provides opportunities and efficiencies for both tournament hosting and simultaneous programming. During Phase 1 Sport Field Strategy engagement, sport field user groups identified a need for multi-field sites that can accommodate tournaments.

Hub sites will offer a total of three or more Class A and/or synthetic turf fields at one park.





BIG MOVE #3: CREATE HUB SITES

(CONTINUED)

POTENTIAL HUB SITES

Potential sites	Description of change: what is needed to make this a hub?	Site selection criteria most strongly met	Potential challenges or constraints
Churchill School	<p>Significant change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade required for three fields, and additional field amenities required for sport hosting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-development condition Transportation access Supported by policy and planning (2019 Board motion, Track and Field Strategy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple jurisdictions (VSB site), requires joint use agreement and access to washrooms Upgrades required to three fields
Connaught Park	<p>Minor change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor capital upgrades required, including lighting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-development condition Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) Transportation access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field bookings are at capacity. Adjacent fieldhouse does not currently provide public access to WC and changerooms
John Hendry Park	<p>Moderate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades required for multiple fields/diamonds. Aligns with potential project for big move #2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) Transportation access Supported by policy and planning (John Hendry Park Master Plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible geotechnical constraints (pre-development condition)
Killarney Park	<p>Moderate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade to 1 field required. Aligns with potential project for Big Move #2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-development condition Existing complementary infrastructure (community centre) Transportation access Supported by policy and planning (Track and Field Strategy, Killarney Track upgrade) 	



BIG MOVE #4: ESTABLISH DEDICATED BALL DIAMOND AND RECTANGULAR FIELD PARKS

DIRECTIONS ALIGNMENT



**The bolded directions icons reflect those most strongly advanced by this big move. See board 14 for a description of each direction.*

RATIONALE:

While overlapping fields allow provision of more sport fields and more capacity in limited space, establishing a small number of dedicated ball diamond or rectangular field parks, with no overlap, would provide other benefits. It would allow specific infrastructure, like permanent outfield fences, at these locations for better user experience. It would also make maintaining the fields more efficient and may allow for longer booking seasons.

Many of Vancouver’s parks have overlapping rectangular sport fields and ball diamonds. This big move means removing a small number of existing overlapping fields to focus on either dedicated ball diamonds or rectangular fields at a single location. The majority of overlapping fields would remain in the system. This move would:

- A. Establish dedicated ball diamond parks for softball and baseball
- B. Establish dedicated rectangular sport field parks

HOW WILL DEDICATED PARKS BE SELECTED?

If this round of engagement shows support for creating a small number of dedicated ball diamond and rectangular field parks, the implementation plan in the final Sport Field Strategy will identify a target number of parks and preliminary list of locations for consideration and future engagement.



BIG MOVE #5: ESTABLISH SPORT-SPECIFIC PRIORITY FIELDS:

DIRECTIONS ALIGNMENT



**The bolded directions icons reflect those most strongly advanced by this big move. See board 14 for a description of each direction.*

RATIONALE:

Developing fields that can accommodate emerging sports would support the growth of these sports. It would also reduce maintenance issues and conflicts between uses that can occur when field sports are played on surfaces that are not suitable to that sport.

The following sport-specific field projects have been identified:

- A. Develop at least one new **field hockey** pitch at a new or renewed synthetic turf field
- B. Develop at least one **lacrosse** priority pitch
- C. Develop or upgrade at least one **cricket** field
- D. Develop or upgrade at least one **rugby** priority pitch
- E. Develop or upgrade at least one **football** priority pitch

HOW WILL SPORT SPECIFIC FIELD PROJECTS BE PRIORITIZED FOR NEW OR UPGRADED FIELDS?

If this round of engagement shows support for sport-specific priority fields, the implementation plan will identify key site and design criteria. This will help guide how these priority uses sport fields can be integrated into the sport field system, and how they fit with the other big move projects. Feedback received through the current phase of public engagement, as well as engagement with sport-specific user groups will also be considered.

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SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL SPORT FIELD PROJECTS

(CONTINUED)

The following map reflects the potential candidate sites proposed in the “big moves” as well as other identified sport field projects.

LEGEND

Big Moves:

-  Renew Existing Synthetic Turf Fields
-  Convert Select All Weather (Gravel) Fields to Synthetic Turf
-  Create Hub Sites

Other:

-  2022 Board Motion Projects (See Board 11 for more information)
-  Other Previously Approved Sport Field Projects

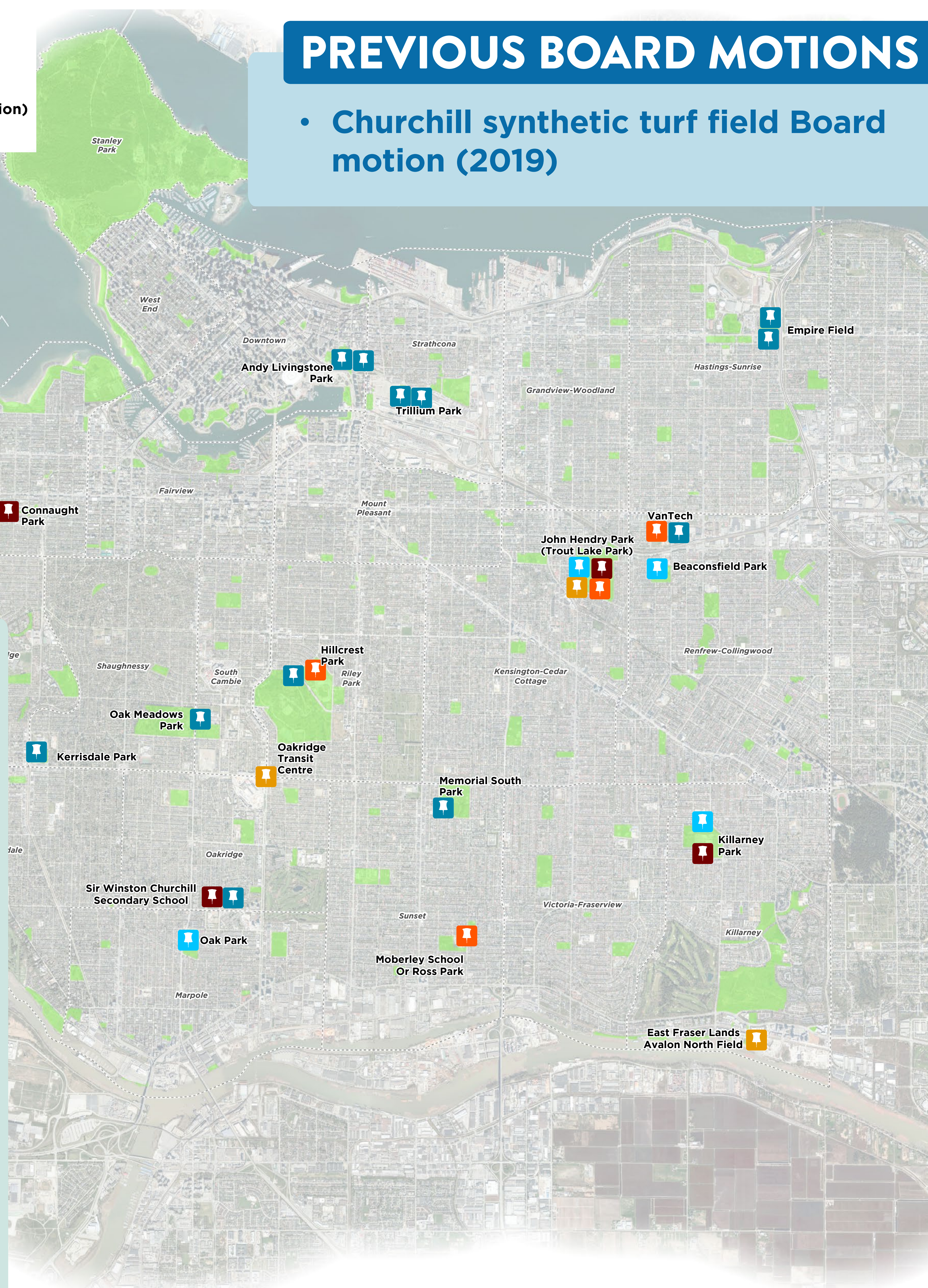


PREVIOUS BOARD MOTIONS

- Churchill synthetic turf field Board motion (2019)

APPROVED THROUGH OTHER POLICY

- New synthetic turf sport field at Avalon North Park: identified through East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan, **approved by City Council in 2006**
- Improvements to John Hendry Park Sport Fields: identified in Board approved **John Hendry Park Renewal Plan (2022)**
- New youth soccer field at Oakridge Transit Centre: identified in Oakridge Transit Centre rezoning, **approved by City council in 2020.** (Funded by development.)



FIFA World Cup:

Vancouver has been selected as one of 16 host cities for the 26th **FIFA World Cup**, to be hosted in 2026. Further details are expected in the coming months and will be considerations in the final implementation plan for the Sport Field Strategy.

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NEXT STEPS

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please click [here](#) to complete the Phase 3 engagement survey and provide your feedback on the potential projects identified on these boards.

