



Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2026
4:30 PM

City Hall

Aspen Room
415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA

Virtual Meeting Credentials:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 220 841 959 653
Passcode: vXa8CB

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call - 4:30pm**
 - a. Introduction to PRCS Volunteer Coordinator, Erik Horngren
- 2. Approval of Minutes - 4:35pm**
 - a. Approval of the February 18th PRAC meeting minutes
- 3. Community Forum - 4:37pm**

To provide public testimony, please see instructions below.
- 4. Workshop - 4:40pm**
 - a. 2025-26 Corridor Project Updates
 - b. Events Permitting Update
 - c. Inspire Vancouver (Cultural Access Program) Update
 - d. Spring Parks Update
 - e. Coordination Plan with Urban Forestry Commission

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Members

Jayne Cavaness, **President**
Angilo Fletcher, **Vice President**

Jeremy Robbins
Stephen Wille
James Luce
Valerie Striplin
AJ Panter, VPS
Cale Piland, EPS
Jenny Thompson, Parks
Foundation

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services Department**
P.O. Box 1995 Vancouver, WA
98668
360-487-8311
TTY: 711
cityofvancouver.us

5. Commission and Staff Reports - 5:50pm

- a. Department Director
- b. Commission Chair
- c. Evergreen School District
- d. Vancouver Public School
- e. Parks Foundation

6. Open Discussion & New Business - 5:58pm

Adjournment - 6:00pm

- a. **PUBLIC NOTICE: Commissioners from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission are invited to attend an optional park site tour at the Vancouver Innovation Center on April 15, 2026, following the special meeting offsite to be held at the Vancouver Innovation Center in the Sequoia Room from 4:00pm - 5:00pm. After adjournment of the special meeting, the Commission will not meet and no Commission business will occur during the park site tour.**

Requ (List the action needed by Council for the item approval)
est:

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. In Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5 pm on the day before the meeting.
2. Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8311 or email parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

To request accommodation or other formats, please contact: Alicia Nilo | 360-487-8310 | TTY: 711 | parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:

Cavaness, Fletcher, Thompson, Wille, Luce

Commissioners Absent:

Striplin, Robbins, Piland and Panter

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. in the Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Striplin, Robbins, Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved January 21, 2025, meeting minutes by consensus with minor changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

Mary Keltz, long-time resident of Vancouver, hopes to get a better understanding of the Comprehensive Plan Park Chapter update. Keltz shared concern about the decrease in visual and physical breathing space among new developments due to urban density, stating that a 10-minute walk may not be accessible to all demographics. The approach to incorporating landscaping and benches into civic plazas and public spaces was a suggested consideration for condensed spaces. She shared that community gardens can also provide a rest from the built environment to sit and spend time in nature. With the amount of anticipated density anticipated, she urged the prioritization of advancing natural spaces in the shorter term.

Members

Jayne Cavaness

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Angilo Fletcher

Vice President

Jeremy Robbins

Stephen Wille

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Item 4: Workshops

a. Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan Update

Bryan Snodgrass, Community Development Principal Planner, and Dave Perlick shared an overview of the comprehensive plan update, providing project background on the project overview and process. The purpose of the plan is to serve as a guide for the city's growth and development over the next 20 years.

Key Drivers and Priorities:

- A changing landscape – Rising housing costs, climate change, evolving transportation needs, community safety and economic shifts require a new approach.
- Economic and employment trends – Capacity for 43k new jobs, continued remote work, desire for jobs closer to home, access to family wage jobs, shifts in commerce and support for small businesses.
- Growing community – Transition from suburban to urban: continue transition from suburban expansion to compact, connected neighborhoods where daily needs can be met within a 15-min walk.
- Opportunity for all – Address disparities in outcomes and provide equal access to housing, jobs, parks, schools, healthcare, and essential services for all community members.
- Climate action – Net-zero emissions by 2040; adapt to heat, wildfire smoke, flooding through compact, connected growth and resilient infrastructure.
- Legal and policy requirements – Room for 38k new units by 2045 in range of income bands, allow new housing types in all neighborhoods, integrate climate and equity into comprehensive planning.

New State Laws:

- At minimum, allow up to 4 units per residential lot and up to 6 units if near transit.
- Make room for housing units of all income levels, over 30k new units citywide.
- Account for racially disparate impacts.
- Allow min 2 ADUs per residential lot
- No parking minimums for affordable housing
- Only one stairwell is required for residential buildings 6 stories or less.
- Align impact fees to size of housing.
- Allow for permanently supportive housing.

Engagement overview will include:

- Visioning
 - Tabling at 19 events
 - 7 community partner meetings
 - 3 Council, 2 Planning Commission, 1 joint workshop
- Land Use Alternatives
 - 59 events/activities, including 13 mapping activities
 - 10 community partner and 9 community work group meetings
 - 8 Council and 7 Planning Commission workshops
- Goals, Policies, and Code
 - 10 events/activities, including 3 climate-focused workshops
 - 5 community partner and 19 community work group meetings
 - 8 Council and 8 Planning Commission workshops
 - Upcoming Community Presentations

New Zoning Districts include low-scale neighborhood, mixed-use neighborhood, medium-scale neighborhood, institutional/campus, regional activity center, industrial/employment, manufactured home, parks, natural areas, and heavy industrial.

Green space will be built into code to employ landscaping as a buffer between districts, support tree preservation, and increase open space requirements for larger master plans.

Draft plan in the Parks and Recreation chapter responds to uneven access to parks, trails, and recreational opportunities. The chapter establishes parks, natural areas and cultural spaces as essential infrastructure and aligns parks planning to ensure that park investment keeps pace with growth.

- Increase community health through recreation
- Parks, trails and natural spaces
- Community health and wellness
- Thriving cultural landscape.

Key Parks Policies:

- Broaden equitable access to natural spaces and parks
- Acquire land for public parks
- Improve connectivity between parks and open spaces
- Create inclusive and affirming environments
- Sustainable parks funding
- Regional trail and open spaces networks
- Community centers, community gardens, and community streets

Implementation will include parks funding strategies, level of service standards, park district boundaries, PIF programs, capital investment strategy, refining recreation offerings, focus on natural systems, development of the Arts Hub, and Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan with approved cultural access funding.

The project timeline will release drafts for public review in mid-February, Council and Commission review in February and March, and initiation of the adoption process in April and May for Council.

Wille asked if the comprehensive plan accounts for provisions to purchase land as properties expand east. Perlick shared that this is part of the Parks planning standard for acquisition as the competition for land is a primary challenge. Fletcher noted the significant change in the economic demand of population growth and asked how we are going to factor and adapt once the population reaches the anticipated level. Snodgrass shared that we have an estimated capacity from the preferred alternative map based on our current targeted demand.

Thompson asked how frequently we revisit comprehensive plans. We produce them every 10 years, with adjustments as needed every year. Thompson inquired about annexation timeline, and Snodgrass shared that there would need to be further discussion between the communities and elected bodies in the County.

Cavaness expressed support for commercial PIF and suggested considerations for utilizing and repurposing older buildings. Regarding acquisition, it was confirmed that PRCS has an active application open for the Parks Planner position. Cavaness asked about positions for trails and open space networking. Perlick confirmed that our ability to work with internal partners and countywide partners will bring this work forward as there is a lot of interest in investing in trails countywide.

b. Budget Memo & Recreation Cost Recovery Update

Perlick and Stokke shared an overview of the PRCS budget history and trends ranging from 2007 to current. It was highlighted that there is a long-term “structural deficit”, as Vancouver has grown with a 30% increase in population between 2007-2025.

A summary of the PRCS FTE measured against the Vancouver Population was shown by year. Department staffing has been reduced by 35.5 FTEs despite population growth of over 47,000 residents in that time period. This is a reduction of 37.5% in department FTEs from 2007-2025.

The Vancouver FTE per 10,000 is much lower compared to the national medians. Between 2007-2025, PRCS FTEs per 10,000 population decreased by more than 50%. As of 2024, Vancouver is less than 50% of the national median in this measure.

The next measure presented is annual operating expenditures. While expenditures have grown over time, they have not paced with cumulative inflation during this period. PRCS has become a smaller portion of the City’s overall budget now at just 3% of the overall City Budget in 2025. Vancouver is also shown to be below national medians in operating expenses per capita.

Recreation Cost Recovery is part of a resource allocation to help:

- Ensure responsible stewardship of public resources
- Guide service offerings and fee setting
- Optimize community impact

Costs not recovered through revenue are subsidized by General Fund taxes. Cost recovery factors in the balance of individual and community benefits.

Our calculation includes direct Recreation program and facility costs and revenues, plus some administrative and indirect costs. This does not include Parks and Cultural Services divisions’ costs and revenues.

Interfund transfers are costs charged to the Recreation division from other departments, which include facilities maintenance, Risk (insurance, etc.), other internal city services such as IT and HR support, and Grounds Maintenance supporting Recreation.

Direct costs and revenues remained steady from 2024-2025, while charges from other departments grew 27%.

2026 Budget Adoption Schedule:

- April: Financial forecast and revenue options to City Council
- May-June: Department budget preparation
- July: Budget submitted by department
- August-September: Internal budget review
- October: Recommended budget published
- November: City Council review and adoption

The floor was open for discussion and questions from commissioners. Thompson and Fletcher commended staff for their efforts on providing the budget context. Stephen expressed appreciation for the background and big-picture information. Luce commended staff on the informative memo and outlined concern for the need for leaner FTEs in the department. He inquired about the cost to having the community centers open on Sundays

and the increased fees' impacts on memberships. Perlick noted the level of detailed review from Finance and voter-approved initiatives that contribute to changing complexities in the budget.

Cavaness inquired about plans for another community center, and Perlick shared that while this is not in the current comprehensive plan, this is part of active conversations around growing the city boundary. Cavaness expressed gratitude for the helpful visuals in the presentation and memo.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

Parks: A large bigleaf maple tree next to the Elizabeth Austin Playground is decaying on the inside. This means it could break or fall without warning, so we need to remove the tree for public safety. Urban Forestry has contracted Arborscape to handle the removal next week, Feb. 23-27. The playground and portions of the park will be closed to the public during the removal. Signs were posted at the park, and notifications were mailed out to neighbors last week to keep them informed.

To help offset the loss of this significant tree, we are partnering with Urban Forestry to plant nine new trees in the park. You're welcome to join us for that replanting event on Thursday, March 19. You can register for the replanting event on the City website.

Recreation: We hope you'll join us for the Firstenburg 20th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, Feb. 27. All day long the center will be hosting special activities for the whole community including public swims, rock climbing, Zumba classes, sports and games, crafts and a family movie night. The event free and open to the community, so it's a great opportunity to invite people to explore what our community centers have to offer. You can see the full schedule of activities on the City's website.

Cultural Services: We want to congratulate our Cultural Services team on another wonderful weekend of Family Valentine's Ball dances. Erik Miletich and Meg Johnson organized some very memorable evenings for dance enthusiasts of all ages. And Hailey Heath coordinated an excellent team of volunteers to manage all the behind-the-scenes details.

Registration for Community Gardens opened today for returning gardeners and will open next Wednesday for new gardeners. This is the time when gardeners can reserve their plots online. Gardens open for planting in mid-April. Last year all the plots sold out before planting began, so if you know any gardeners, make sure they register early!

State of the City is happening March 9 with a focus on Arts, Culture and Heritage in Vancouver, and will be hosted at the Vancouver Arts Hub.

b. Chair Report

Cavaness shared the following updates:

- She encouraged commissioners to like, share, and comment on PRCS social media posts
- Cavaness will be attending Native Plant Propagation class at SymbiOp

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

- Thompson announced that May 7th is the [PFCC Annual Luncheon](#). The event will take place at the Marriott Hotel.
- Bricks are available at Esther Short to celebrate friends and family or to honor a veteran. Learn more about [Buy a Brick](#) on the PFCC website.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Wille inquired about a Transportation project near NE 137th that may have impacts on the wildlife in that habitat. Perlick can connect with Transportation to find out more. Wille has noticed a lot of electric bikes racing through the parks and inquired about existing policies. Perlick shared that Council has shared feedback on e-bike concerns, and that code needs updating citywide. Wille also noted foxtail grass in parks.

Fletcher asked if State of the City will be available online, and Burton confirmed it will be available on [CVTV](#).

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm

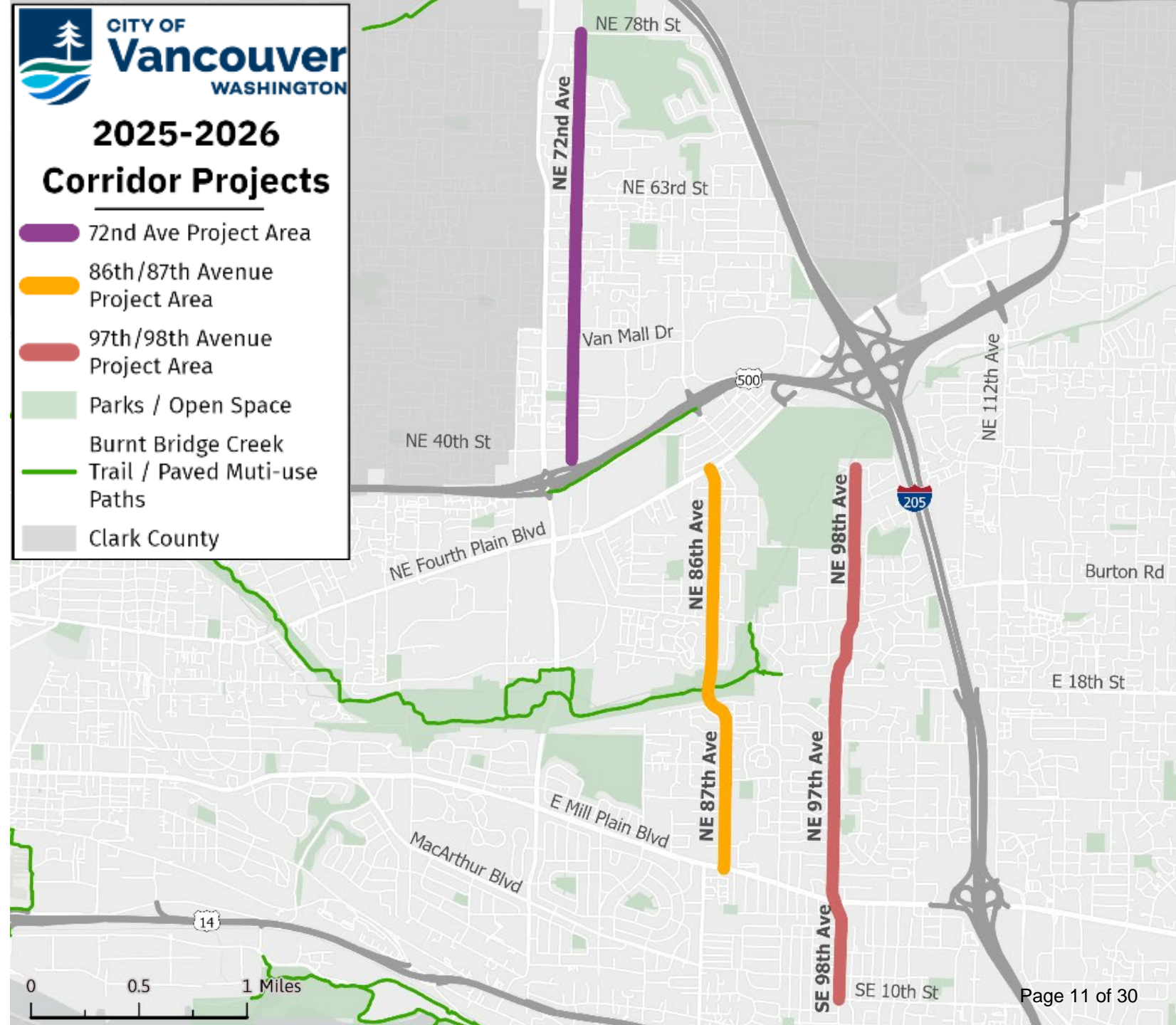


2025-2026 Corridor Projects

Maggie Derk
Transportation Planning
Community Development Department
March 2026

Project Areas

- **NE 72nd Avenue** from NE 78th Street to NE 40th Street
- **NE 86th/87th Avenue** from Fourth Plain Boulevard to Mill Plain Boulevard
- **97th/98th Avenue** from NE 39th Street to SE 10th Street



Project Goals



Safety: Improve safety and create facilities for all ages, abilities and modes of travel.



Equity: Engage with members of the community and provide solutions that benefit the full range of community members.



Climate: Identify solutions that advance climate goals to transition to clean, green modes of travel.



Connectivity: Implement active transportation in alignment with the Transportation System Plan Modal Networks.

Project Scope

Near-term improvements

- Part of pavement preservation project.
- Lower cost enhancements such as revised or reconfigured pavement markings, signage, bicycle and small mobility facility enhancements, turn lane changes, and traffic signal adjustments.
- Usually within the existing roadway, between the curbs or edges of shoulder.

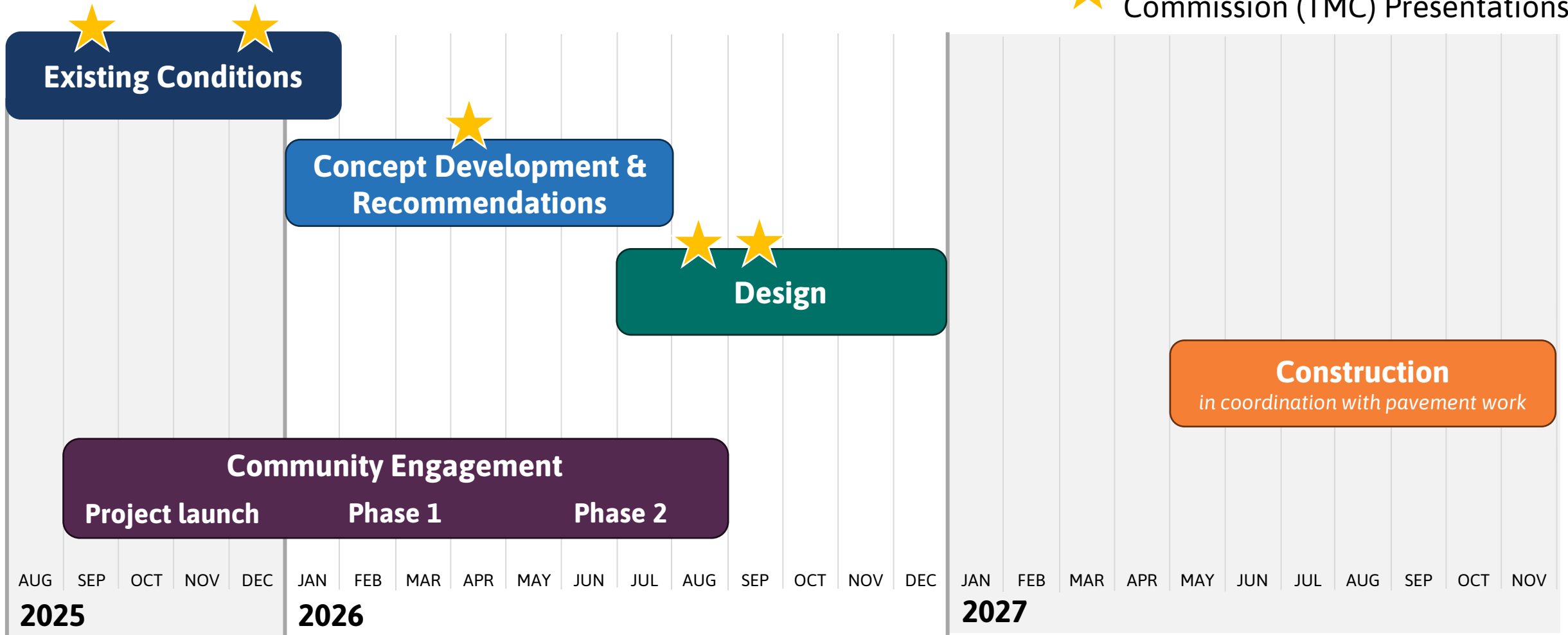
Long-term improvements

- Higher cost changes such as constructing sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and lighting improvements.
- Often require additional funding or grant programs and may require additional right-of-way.
- Take longer to plan, design and construct.



Project Timeline

★ Transportation Mobility Commission (TMC) Presentations





Thank you!

- Visit the project website to sign up for email updates:
tinyurl.com/covstreet25
- Email us anytime throughout the project at:
Vancouvermoves@cityofvancouver.us





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Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Special Events Permitting Process

Sean Douglas

Special Events Permitting Manager

Agenda

- Special Event Permitting Process
- Event Review Team
- Growth of Events
- Challenges
- Denials/Appeals



What is our Process?

- Special Event Interest Form submitted by organizer
- Reviewed for date and location availability
- Organizers attend review meeting 90 days prior to event
- Review Team determines additional permits/contracts needed
- Electronic signing of permit prior to event date



Special Event Review Team

COV Departments, Outside agencies requiring additional permitting and Stakeholders impacted by Special Events.

City of Vancouver

- Permitting Office
- Police
- Fire
- Parking
- Traffic Department
- Land Use
- Risk Department
- Office of Neighborhoods

Outside Agencies

- Clark County Health
- CTRAN
- WSDOT
- WSLCB
- Clark County Parks
- NPS/Fort Vancouver
- Port of Vancouver

Stakeholders

- Farmers Market
- Historic Trust
- VDA
- Neighborhoods
- Property Management
- Hotels





Growth and Permitted Events

- Main Street Project
- Waterfront Park
- Bagley Community Park Renovation
- Vancouver Innovation Center
- Inspire Vancouver





What are our Challenges?

- Multiple events throughout downtown on the same day
- Competing requests for same date and site
- Increased costs for organizers
- Staffing capacity for year-round events
- Ensuring an equitable Process





Denials/Appeals

- Priority may be given to annual, semiannual or other regularly scheduled recurring special events (VMC 5.17.090)
- The denial of special event permit may be appealed to city manager or his/her designee (VMC 5.17.140)
- Appeal Form submission
- Organizer presents appeal to PRAC for decision recommendation
- Special Event Permitting Manager and Event Review Team final decision



Questions



Thank You





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Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Capital Improvement Updates

Terry Snyder, Park Development Manager

March 18, 2026

Active Major Capital Projects in 2026/2027/2028

- The Downs Neighborhood Park.
Construction: March-July 2026
- Jaggy Road Neighborhood Park.
Construction: June-Sept. 2026
- Evergreen Neighborhood Park.
Construction: Sept.-Dec. 2026
- Bella Vista Neighborhood Park.
Design 2026 / Construction 2027
- Franklin Neighborhood Park.
Design 2026 / Construction 2027
- Shaffer Community Park
Construction: Summer – Spring 2027
- Bagley Community Park
Design 2026
Construction 2027/2028
- VIC Community Park Site
Masterplan 2026
Const. Documents and Permitting 2027
Construction 2028

New Playgrounds 2026



Evergreen Neighborhood Park



Jaggy Road Neighborhood Park

Active Minor Capital Repair Needs - REET

- Leach Neighborhood Park Surfacing Replacement
- MyPark Neighborhood Park Surfacing Replacement
- Gretchen Fraser Neighborhood Park Surfacing Replacement
- Marine Park Gate Replacement
- Restroom Facility Upgrade (Design)



Major Capital Repair Needs

Critical repair projects that exceed available funds

- Burnt Bridge Creek Trail pedestrian bridge repair, design and permitting
- Marine Park Boat Launch
- Systemwide ADA improvements



Questions & Discussion

