

## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Council Committee Room  
Coquitlam City Hall  
3000 Guildford Way  
Coquitlam, BC

### CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

*Recommendation:*

That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 be approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

- 2. Joint Coquitlam and kwikwə́łəm Flood Mitigation Program (Presentation by Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities)**  
7:05 – 7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 3. Festival and Events Strategy (Presentation by Heidi Hughes, Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy)**  
7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 4. Glen Park Improvements (Presentation by Karissa Noselski, Parks Planner)**  
8:05 – 8:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 5. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**  
8:35 – 8:55 p.m. (20 minutes)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

*\* Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair  
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice-Chair  
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative  
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative  
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative\*  
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative  
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative\*  
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative  
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative\*

ABSENT: Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative  
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative (regrets)  
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment  
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement\*  
Sara Yastremski, Manager Park Services  
Mohammad Asadian, Parks Partner Program Supervisor  
Madeleine Lemaire, Solid Waste Programs Specialist  
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

The Chair acknowledged Councillor Asmundson’s service as Chair of the Committee and as a Councillor.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS****NEW BUSINESS****2. Committee Orientation Review**

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2026 Advisory Committee Orientation” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

**3. 2026 Work Plan**

The Senior Manager Environment gave introductory comments and referred to the document contained in the Agenda package. The Senior Manager Environment proposed the addition of an item titled “Festivals and Events Strategy” requested by the Community Services Department. This is a Business Plan Priority B in alignment with the Committee mandate in terms of waste reduction, transportation options, etc.

Discussion ensued relative to appreciation of the reflection of Committee discussion at 2025 Year-End Review and the balance of different items.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted that the optional items in the Plan relate to longstanding programs, but have potential for new initiatives in which to engage the Committee.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

MOVED

AND SECONDED

That Council approve the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 4. **Bringing Coquitlam Parks Alive: Volunteer Opportunities**

The Manager Park Services and Parks Partner Program Supervisor gave a presentation entitled “Bringing Coquitlam Parks Alive” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of program growth and continuous improvement over many years.
- Appreciation of gardening opportunities, and interest in food security programming.
- Suggestion to expand Nature Walks to locations or routes beyond parks to engage people further.
- Suggestions of ways to further advertise volunteer opportunities including the Coquitlam app, displaying calendars of activities in community centres and libraries, school newsletters, on-site signage in related parks, and earlier advertisement.
- Suggestion to make connections at Simon Fraser University and other postsecondary institutions in terms of subject matter experts, student researchers, and student organizations involved in environment, planning, landscape design, etc. and otherwise engage volunteers based on expertise.
- Suggestions to encourage engagement including communicating successes, for example statistics of actions taken, and using challenges to motivate business and organizations.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- There are a number of programs related to food security including a food garden in the Inspiration Garden and workshops on small space gardening.
- Nature Walks with volunteer experts and Tree Walks with arborists, in partnership with the Urban Forestry Division, have expanded from hub parks such as Mundy Park, Como Lake Park, and Town Centre Park to other parks.
- Volunteer opportunities are promoted through an online calendar of activities, social media, e-newsletters, and presentations to schools and community organizations; and managed through volunteer management and program registration software.
- There are volunteer opportunities in every season.

## 5. Environmental Achievement Awards 2026

The Solid Waste Programs Specialist gave a presentation entitled “Environmental Achievement Awards 2026” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Publication of previous award winners.
- Requirements of volunteers on the day of the event.

MOVED

AND SECONDED

That the Committee establish a Sub-committee for the purposes of award adjudication and event planning of the Environmental Achievement Awards 2026; and appoint Mark Ashton, Grayson Barke, Reza Berry, Daryoush M. Hassani, Nadia Springle, and Azar Varasteh as members.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Manager Park Services, Parks Partner Program Supervisor, and Solid Waste Programs Specialist left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:03 p.m.)

## 6. Climate Action Plan Update

The Senior Manager Environment gave a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan Update” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation that the Plan reflects well on its contributors and the community, meets the needs of the moment, positively addresses multiple reasons to take climate action, provides a long-term approach with flexibility, and is accessible to a broad audience.
- Concern about ensuring effectiveness of resident actions and how these actions may be tracked.
- Desire for the Zero Carbon Step Code adoption to be connected with the Plan, and to understand and address barriers to implementing higher standards.
- Challenges in municipal control of emissions arising from growth and development pressures, regional and provincial jurisdictions, provincial and federal funding, and economic factors.
- Appreciation of the extent of input provide to the Plan from this Committee, and anticipation of continued opportunities to participate in its implementation.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Many cities in the region have Climate Action Plans and share ideas and information to coordinate and collaborate.
- Surveys undertaken at the outset of engagement on the Climate Action Plan and in related work such as the Transportation Plan provide baseline data, and later surveys can determine progress.
- The City's climate actions are reported annually on the City's website as required by participation in the Local Government Climate Action Program.
- Building policies are part of the Plan with details such as the Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes to be determined by Council; recent industry engagement on Step Code implementation revealed that cost pressures are a key concern for higher steps of the Energy Step Code.
- Coquitlam is currently ahead of the provincial schedule for one category of the Energy Step Code and aligned with the provincial schedule for the Zero Carbon Step Code.
- Additional building initiatives include promotion of retrofit programs and achieving Zero Carbon Building Standards for the Burke Mountain Community Centre, the first to pursue this certification.

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness recently released the *British Columbia Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment*, which forecasts climate risks for the coming decades and has some concerning projections.
- Report that Metro Vancouver is undertaking an analysis of how the provincial housing legislation is affecting environmental policies such as urban forestry, which suggesting that the legislation is not sufficiently connected to climate action.
- The impact of the provincial housing legislation is now being realized after two years of implementation, including on green space and tree canopy cover, potential for land use density, and demands on Planning and Development staff.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

Councillor Steve Kim, Chair

---

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk



SEAC Mar 10, 2026

# Joint Flood Mitigation Program

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [i](#) | [coquitlam.ca](http://coquitlam.ca)

Coquitlam

## Agenda

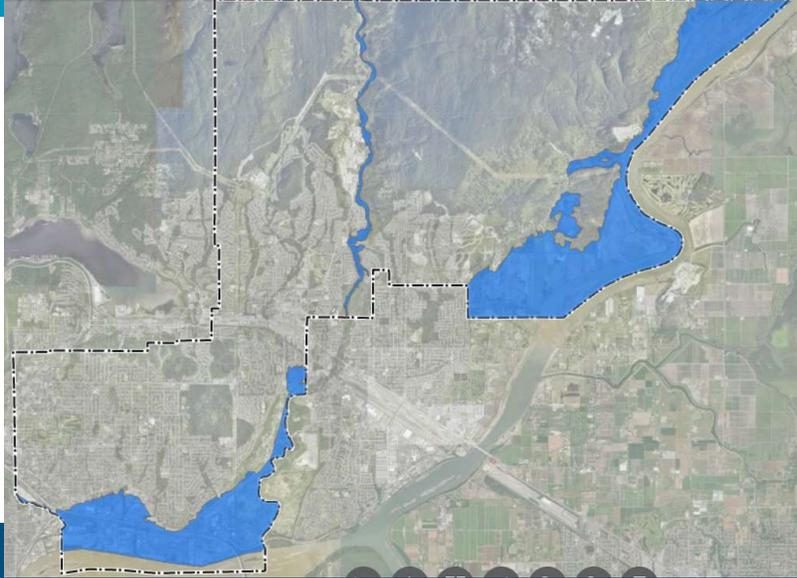
1. Flood Risk
2. Alignment Options
3. Phasing Considerations



Coquitlam

1

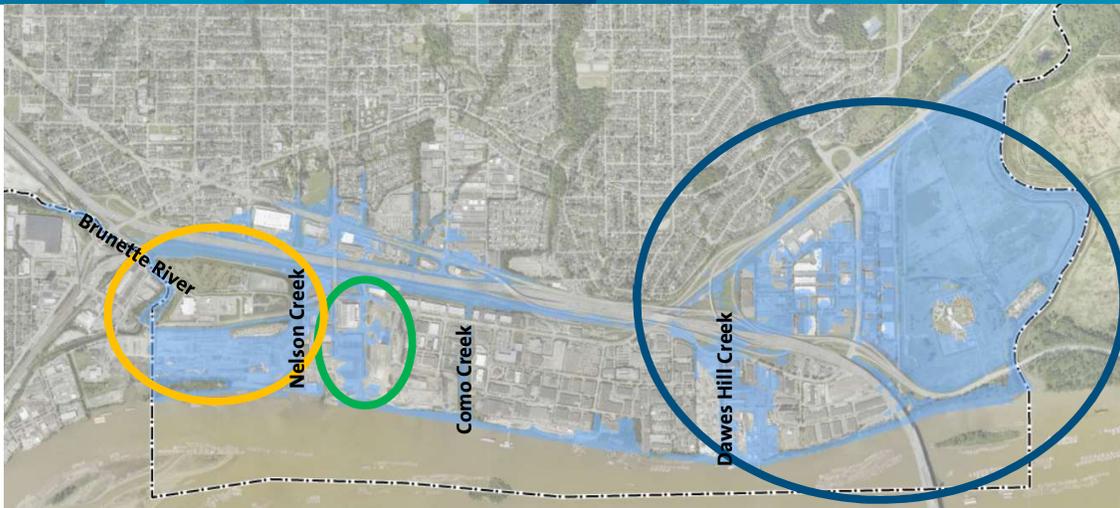
# Flood Risk - Floodplains



Coquitlam

2

# Flood Risk – Fraser River (4.6m)



Coquitlam

3

# Three Key Challenges

1. Land Ownership
2. Railway Crossing
3. Industrial Area



Coquitlam

4

# Challenge 3 – Industrial Area



Coquitlam

5

# Alignment Options – Offset vs. Existing

## Considerations

1. Environmental
2. Financial



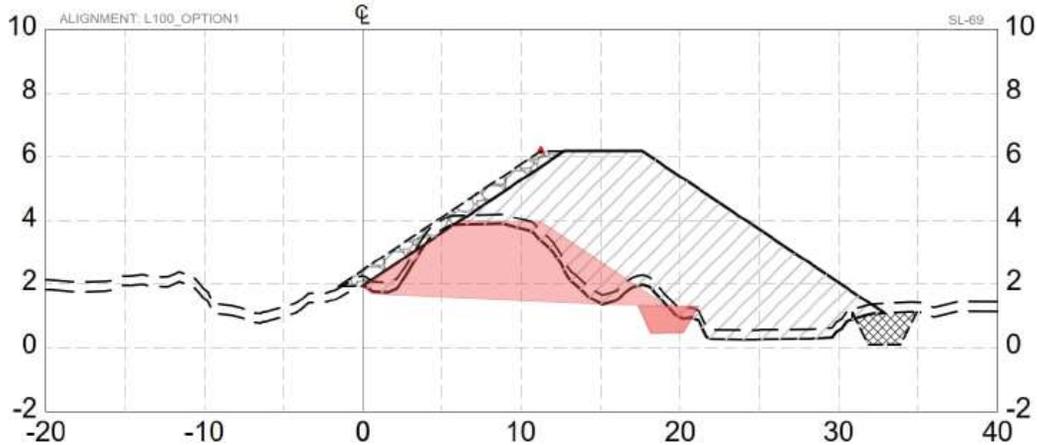
Coquitlam

# Alignment Options - Considerations



Coquitlam

# Alignment Options - Considerations



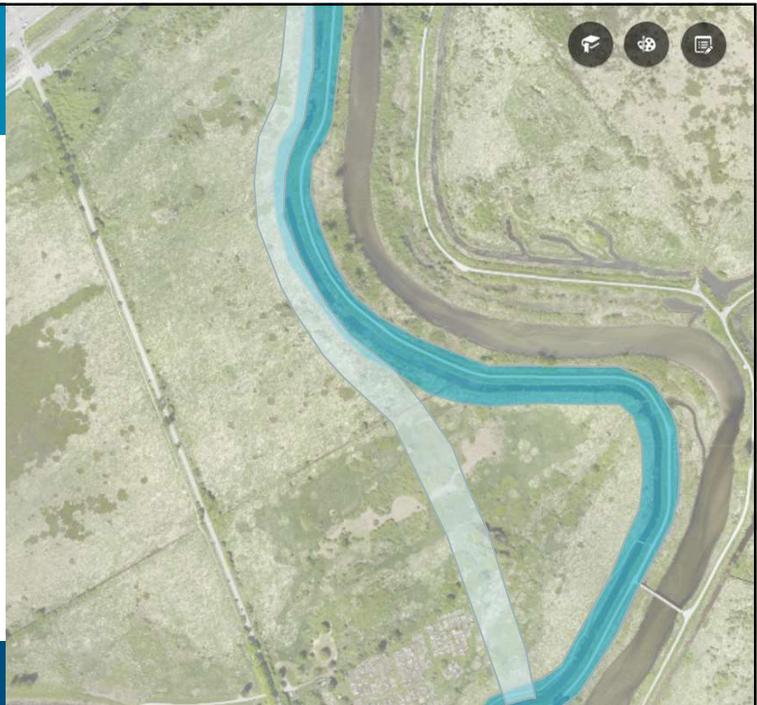
Coquitlam

8

## Alignment Options

### Environmental Considerations

1. Drainage channel habitat
2. Coquitlam river armouring
3. Fish habitat enhancements
4. λέxαtəm Regional Park area



Coquitlam

# Alignment Options - Costs

## Cost Considerations

1. Level of flood protection provided (current = 1:100 @ ~3.5m)
2. Cost estimate uncertainty

Alignment	Cost	Comments
Existing	\$50-70M	Uncertainty regarding re-use of existing dike fill
Offset	\$45-50M	Reduced area protected, less rip-rap required?

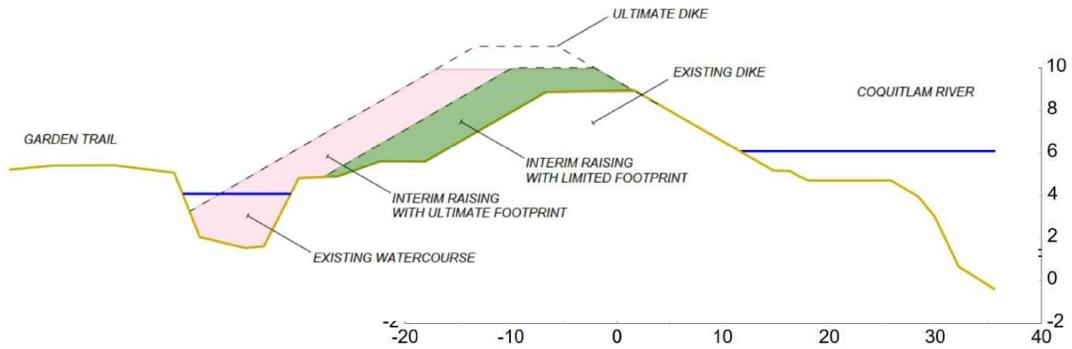
**NOTE: Grant = \$20M**

# Alignment Summary

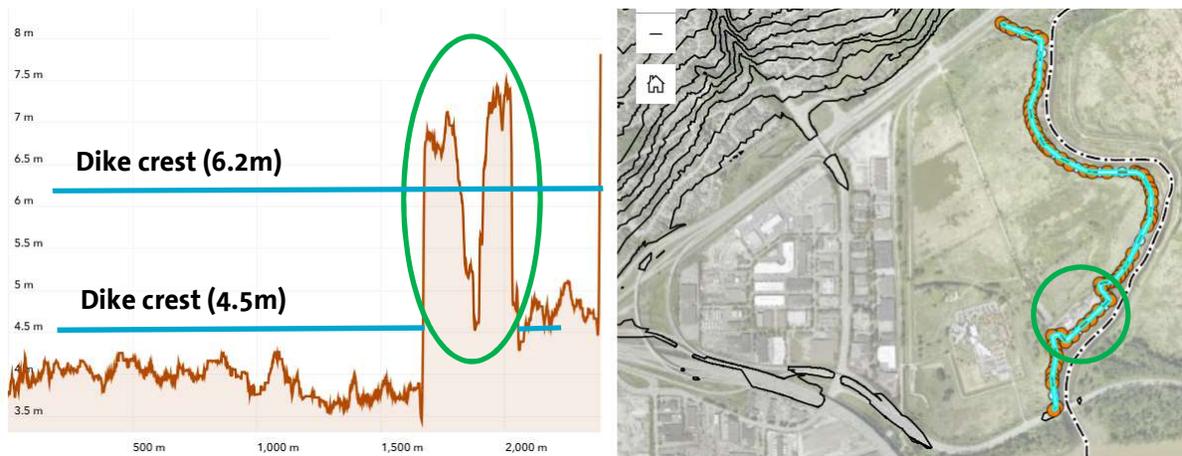
Alignment	Environmental	Financial
Existing	Moderate	\$50-70M
Offset	Moderate (with potential benefits)	\$45-50M

# Phasing Considerations

1. Protected Area
2. Cost Efficiency
3. Complexity



# Phasing Considerations



# Phasing Considerations



## Phasing - Uniform

- Phase 1 - 4.5m
- Phase 2 - 6.2m



## Phasing - Area

**Phase 1** – East of Hwy#1  
**Phase 2** – West of Hwy#1



Coquitlam

## Joint Flood Mitigation

**Phasing Options** (costs shown below assumes offset dike alignment)

Phasing Scenario	Cost			Comments
	Now	Future	Total	
Uniform* (4.5m)	\$25-35M	\$15-30M	\$50-55M	Additional design, mobilization, and restoration cost
Area-specific	\$20M	\$25-30M	\$45-50M	Interim localized area with higher flood risk

\*gaps would still exist at two river access points on industrial sites

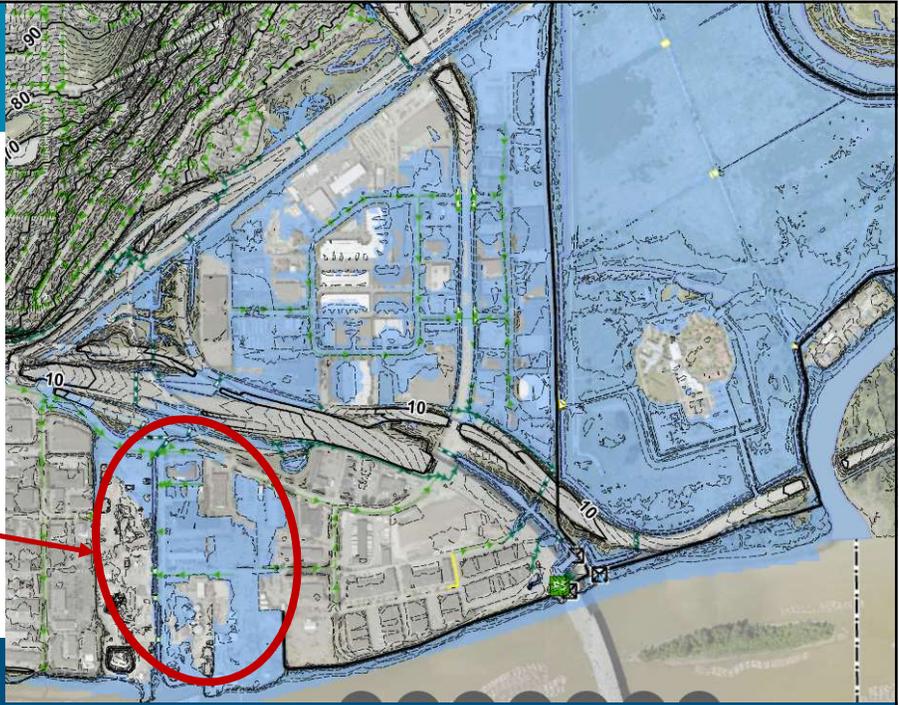
Coquitlam

17

### Phase Option - Area-Specific

- 350m of interim works required  
(interim works required regardless due to barge access)

Localized area of flood risk



## Area-Specific Response Plan



# Phasing Summary

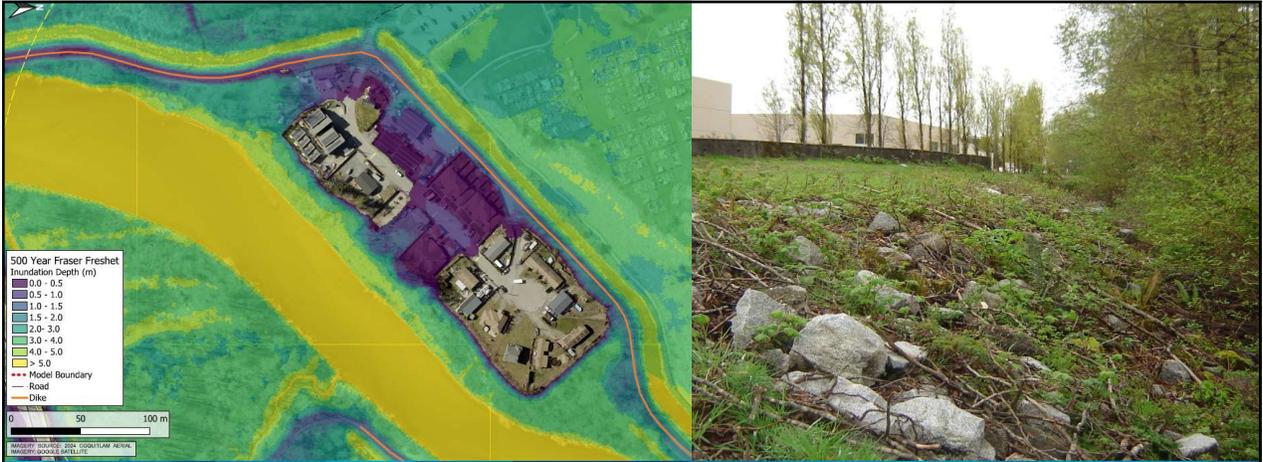
Alignment	Area	Cost Efficiency	Complexity
Uniform	Protects 100%	Extra \$5-10M cost	Industrial area right-of-way, permitting, and phasing issues
Area-Specific	Protects 90%*		More time to resolve industrial area issues

\*operational response plan could help protect 100% of area

## Key Question

What is your feedback on the alignment and phasing options?

- **Alignment** = existing vs. offset
- **Phasing** = uniform vs. area-specific



# Questions?

[f](#)
[t](#)
[i](#)
[v](#)
[y](#)
[i](#)
[n](#)
 | [coquitlam.ca](http://coquitlam.ca)

Coquitlam

# Flood Risk

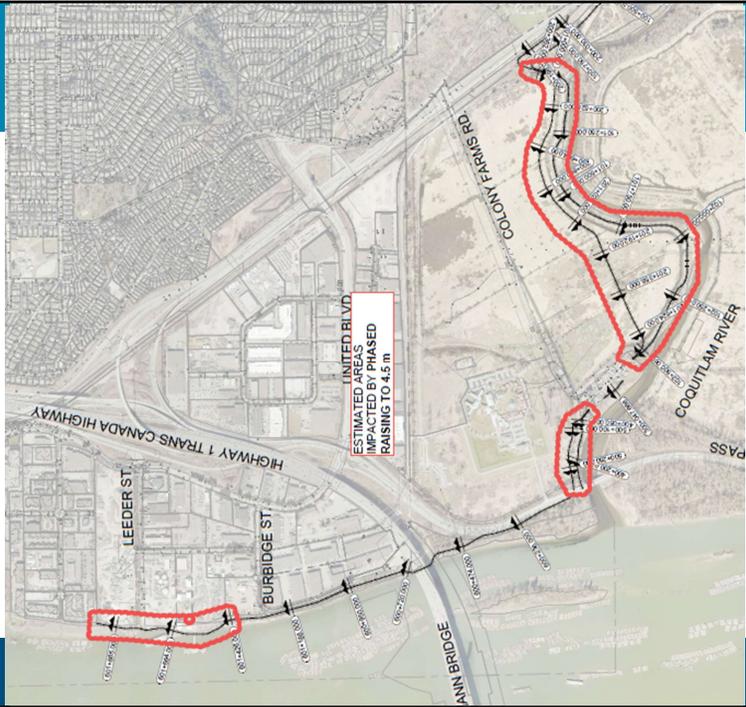
- 3.5m
- 4.0m
- 4.6m



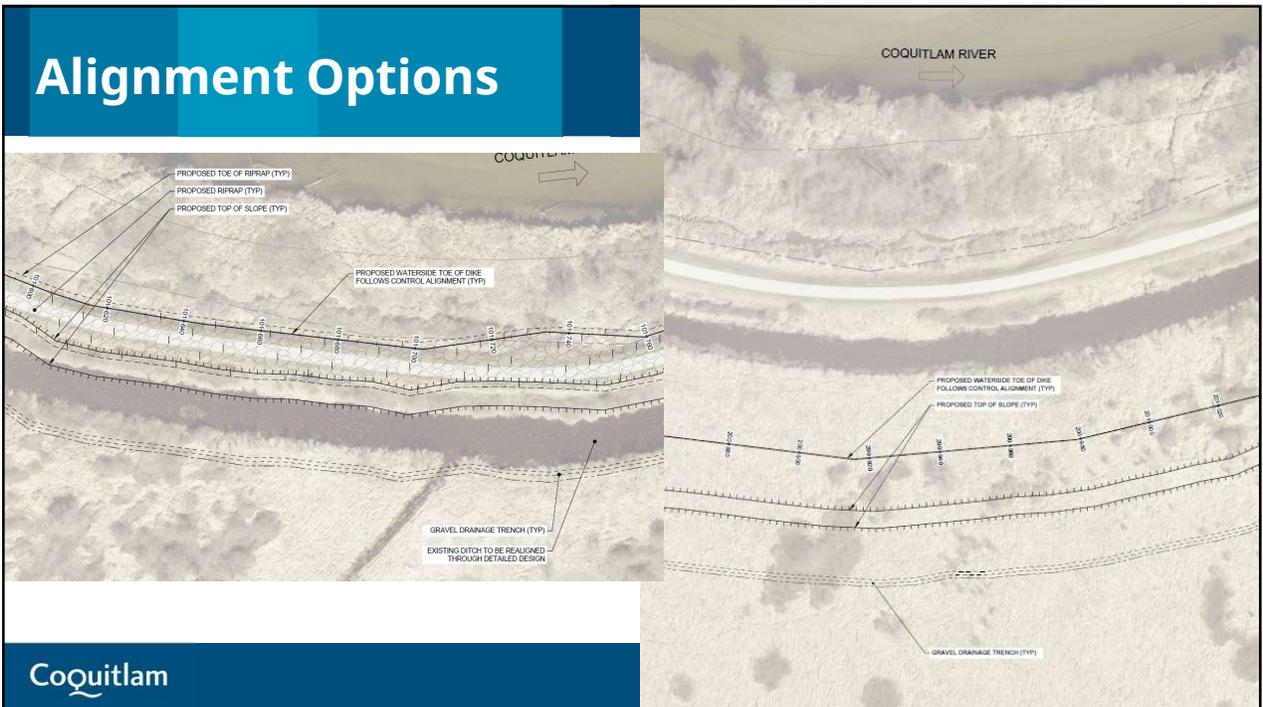
Coquitlam

23

# Phasing



# Alignment Options





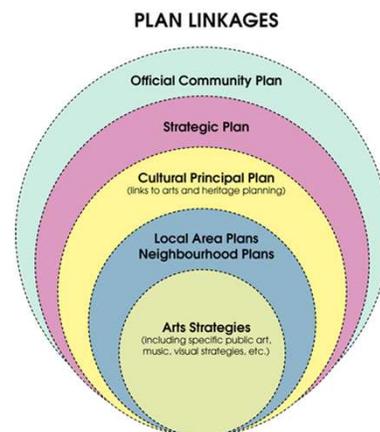
## Presentation Purpose

- **To provide a general project update** to the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee
- **To gather early input** on project direction from a sustainability and environmental lens

# Project Purpose + Process

## Purpose – *Festivals and Events Strategy*

To determine how festivals and events foster a **vibrant, inclusive, and connected community** in Coquitlam and provide recommendations for **sustainable growth**.



## Project Process – Phasing



## Festivals and Events – Current Context

## Broader Festivals and Events Landscape



**Economic Pressures**



**Climate Change Realities**



**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,  
and Accessibility**



**Digital Innovations**



**Audience Shifts**



**Heightened Safety Concerns**

## Broader Festivals and Events Landscape



**Community and Social Impact**



**Culinary Innovation**



**Professional Project  
Management, Value  
Propositions and  
Messaging**



**Financial Innovations**



**Generational Preferences,  
Youth Engagement**



**Reimagining Spaces**

## **Local Government Concerns**

### **Festivals and Events**

- Rising costs and unclear cost
- Increased demands on staff capacity
- Need for capacity building
- Public safety
- Impact on resident
- Uneven geographic distribution
- Gathering useful evaluation data
- Insufficient event-ready infrastructure
- Availability of space

# **Advisory Committee Discussion Points**

**1. How can the Festivals and Events Strategy better promote sustainability, environmental stewardship and awareness among event organizers, attendees, and volunteers?**

Coquitlam

11 Property of Patricia Huntsman Culture + Communication. No distribution without written permission.

**2. What standards, guidelines, or best practices should the City consider embedding in the strategy to reduce environmental impact and make events more sustainable?**

Coquitlam

12 Property of Patricia Huntsman Culture + Communication. No distribution without written permission.



**Thank you**

**Questions:**

**Heidi Hughes**

Manager Tourism & Visitor Economy  
hhughes@coquitlam.ca

City of Coquitlam  
Parks and Capital Projects

# Glen Park Improvements

## Engagement Results, Master Concept Plan Update and Next Steps

Sustainability and Environmental  
Advisory Committee

March 10, 2026

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [i](#)  
coquitlam.ca/

Coquitlam



## Agenda

1. Site Overview
2. Public Engagement Findings
3. Updated Master Concept Plan
4. Phasing Plan
5. Sustainability Goals
6. Next Steps



Coquitlam

1

## Site Overview

### Glen Park Context

- 16.7 acre community park in Coquitlam's City Centre Neighbourhood
- Unique forested urban oasis, second-growth forest
- Various improvements since the 2011 Glen Park Master Plan
- Continued population growth and area densification following provincial housing legislation changes



## Public Engagement

### What We Did

September & October 2023

- 4 Community Meetings & Workshops
- 1 Virtual Open House
- 2 Neighbourhood Pop-up Events
- Public Survey



**100** people participated in pop-up events at the Coquitlam Public Library, City Centre branch on September 28, 2023 and October 14, 2023.

# Public Engagement Findings

Glen Park serves as an important pedestrian connection through City Centre. **80% of those surveyed walk to Glen Park.**

## What We Heard

### Top 3 reasons people visit Glen Park:

- Spend time in nature (64%)
- Relax (55%)
- Bring kids to play (54%)

### Top 3 most requested amenities:

- Washroom (62%)
- Enhanced playground (51%)
- More picnicking opportunities (36%)



# Updated Master Concept Plan

## Amenities Overview

- Washrooms
- Central playground
- Picnicking areas
- Water play
- Dog off-leash area
- Social Hub and entry plaza
- Shared Use site
- Entry nodes

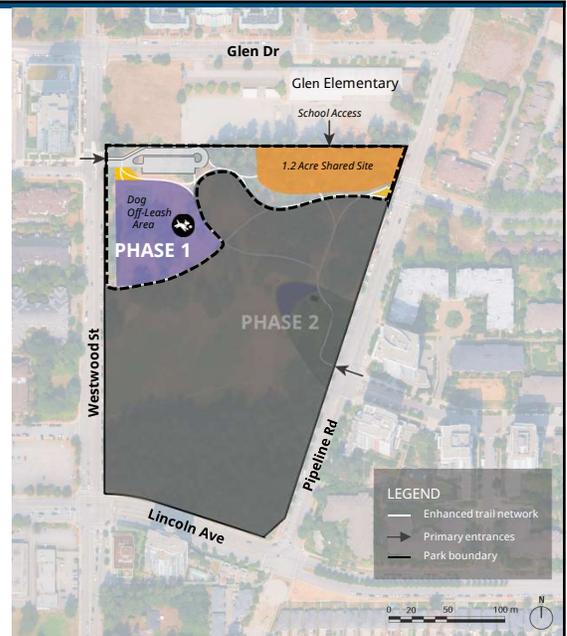


# Phasing Plan

## Phase 1 – Dog Off-Leash Area and Shared Site Improvements

Estimated delivery: T2-T3 2026

- Relocation of dog off-leash area
- 1.2 Acre Shared Site
- Trail improvements

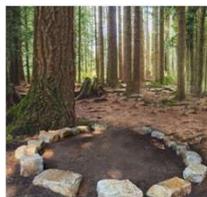


## Phase 1 – Dog Off-Leash Area and Shared Site Improvements

### 1.2 Acre Shared Site

Forest inspired creative nature play amenities

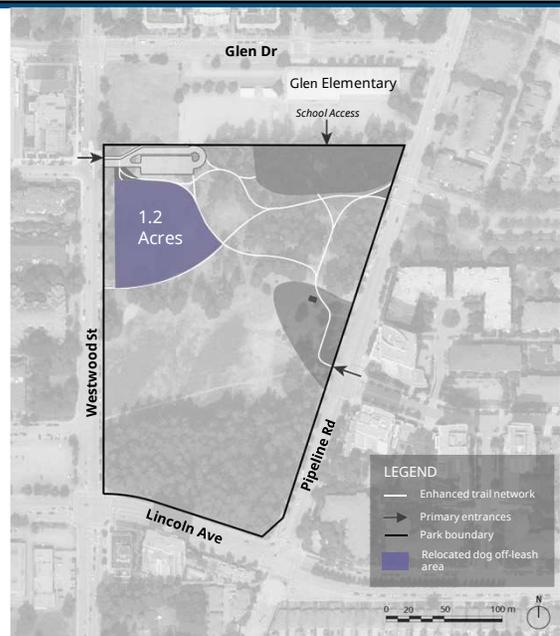
- Priority use by Glen Elementary during school hours



## Phase 1 - Dog Off-Leash Area and Shared Site Improvements

### Dog Off-Leash Area

- Separated large and small dog areas
- Natural agility features
- Grass, mulch & gravel surfacing
- Reuse and relocation of existing site elements
- Shade opportunities



## Phasing Plan

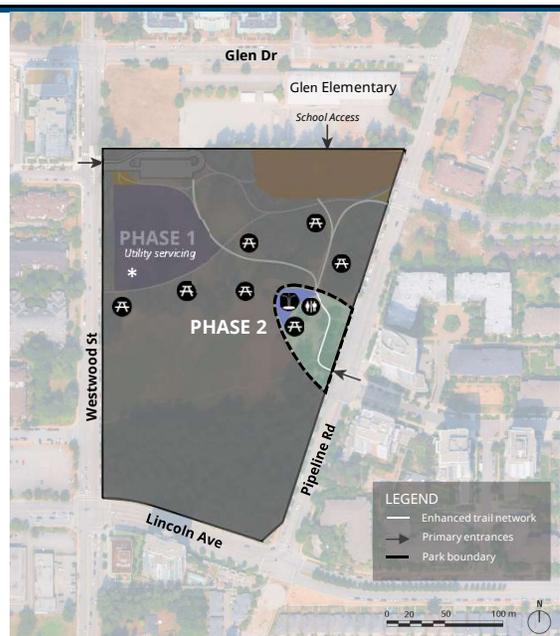
### Phase 2 - Major Improvements

More comprehensive design, costing & permitting process

Estimated delivery: **T1-T3 2027**

Key amenities:

- Washrooms
- Water play
- Social hub and expanded picnic areas
- Utility servicing for dog off-leash area
  - \*water and lighting
- Trail improvements

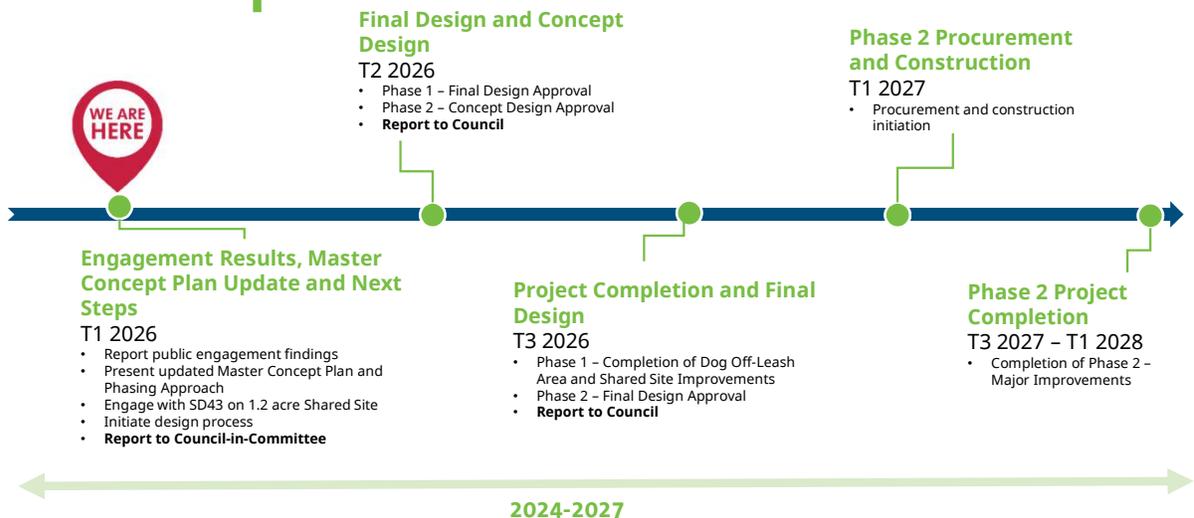


# Sustainability Goals

- Urban Forest Management
  - Prioritizing retention and integration of existing mature trees
- Environmental Restoration
  - Integrating native planting: Habitat protection and biodiversity enhancement
- Waste & Water Management
  - Reuse of existing infrastructure
  - Sustainable stormwater management
    - Permeable surfaces, exploring recirculating water play system
- Active Transportation
  - Improving pedestrian/cyclist connections



# Next Steps





Thank you

### Questions and Discussion

- Are there any Committee priorities and/or emerging practices that staff should consider while working on Glen Park Improvements - Phases 1 & 2?
- When looking at the project through an environmental lens, which design features or sustainability opportunities are most important for staff to keep in mind?

     | [coquitlam.ca](http://coquitlam.ca)

Coquitlam