

West End Waterfront Plan

April 22, 2024



Elvira Lount · Follow

5 min read · 11 hours ago



View of the West End from Burrard Bridge (Photo by Elvira Lount)

Dear Park Board Commissioners;

I've reviewed the West End Waterfront plan on the agenda for this evening and concluded that it is overly ambitious and over-developed. There are too many ideas proposed that will make the this narrow strip of beach waterfront much too cluttered, noisy and busy. Genuine quiet beaches and quiet areas are needed in our parks, particularly in the over crowded West End.

Area 1 “Wooded Forehore” specifies a more peaceful and quiet unprogrammed area, however it includes an “ ELEVATED PATHWAY OVER INTERTIDAL and A FLOATING WOOD PLATFORM ZONE that will completely negate any possibility of a quiet peaceful space to enjoy nature. These are totally unnecessary additions and expenses.

Imagine relaxing on this supposed quiet peaceful beach and having people practically on top of you watching you from an elevated pathway, or even worse blasting their blu-tooth speakers from the wooden platform, and screaming and yelling while jumping or diving into the water, as is the norm from any separate deck platform in the water.

Does the illustration below look like a quiet peaceful space to you?



Artistic illustration of FLOATING WOOD PLATFORM [3]

Area 1 Wooded Area “peaceful, quiet, unprogrammed”

My main concern is what is being proposed for Sunset Beach, a designated “QUIET BEACH!”

The Park Board bylaws state:

22. No person shall:

(1) in any portion of a park designated as a “quiet area” and posted as such, operate a radio, tape player, or other device capable of transmitting live or recorded sound, unless the sound is transmitted directly to a person’s ears through the use of headphones.

Area 4. SUNSET BEACH

PROPOSED:

*“Sunset Beach is expected to see increasing levels of activity and use over the coming decades. To accommodate this increase and enhance existing popular amenities, this area of the Vision is envisioned as **highly programmed**. Design elements and opportunities include:*

- Raising the elevation of the park and beach by 1.2m;*
- A new multi-use building with concessions, change rooms, washrooms, storage, and support for Lifeguard operations;*
- Formal areas for roller skating, skateboarding, roller hockey and court sports;*
- A destination playground for children and youth;*
- A recreational bicycle path and pedestrian path through the park connecting the Bute Street Greenway to the Seaside Greenway;*
- A new Amphitheatre and ‘Great Lawn’ for larger events and performances;*
- Canopy structures for shade and rain protection to encourage year-round park use.”*

ISSUES WITH THIS PROPOSAL:

- As stated above, Sunset Beach is a designated quiet beach where no music of any kind is allowed, yet an “*amphitheatre with festival lawn and cafe*” is included. Obviously there will be constant, mostly loud, music emanating from this, **in violation of the Park Board’s own bylaws.** (22.1), both permitted and unpermitted. The illustration below of the Sunset Beach Plaza even includes a photo of a guitarist!

- Way too many activities are being stuffed into this designated quiet beach area that will bring unnecessary and unwanted noise to the neighbourhood and the beach goers. A roller park, skate park, roller hockey and court sports, in addition to the amphitheatre, are all **very noisy activities** especially given that participants are often accompanied by their own blu-tooth mini-speakers blasting amplified music to everyone in the vicinity. All of these “activities” should be eliminated from the plan for Sunset. It’s not necessary to fill up every square inch of green and beach space with activities. This is a QUIET BEACH and should remain as such.
- *“Canopy structures for shade and rain protection”* for *“year round”* park use means that there will be **NO RESPITE** for local residents for the entire year. **This quiet beach will be noisy for the entire year.**
- Keep in mind that amplified music, especially loud bass, carries across the water. Both permitted and unpermitted music events at Sunset Beach can be heard by residents of Kitsilano, particularly in Vanier Park and Kits Point, and even at our house 8 blocks west of Kits Beach, and again this is being proposed year round!

3.3.4 Area 4 - Sunset Beach and Play

Active and programmed



70 | West End Waterfront Plan - Vision Plan

30 | DESIGN SUMMARY

Area 4 Sunset Plaza and Play Area



artistic illustration of
SUNSET BEACH PLAZA (17)

Area 4 Sunset Beach Plaza



Open in app ↗

Sign up

Sign in



Search

Write



Area 2. English Bay: I also have concerns in regards to English Bay and the “*more prominent bandstand in Alexandra Park*”. Again, more amplified music to disturb local residents. Also, from the illustrations, it appears that there

will be a lot less sandy beach and a lot more paved over plaza space. Given that people come to the beach to swim and lie out and sunbathe, build sandcastles etc, this seems to be going in the wrong direction. As the population expands, people will need more sandy beach space, not less. Furthermore, as you know the West End waterfront, particularly English Bay, is overwhelmed by illegal buskers in the summer. With more “plaza space”, there will be more illegal buskers and more illegal amplified music.



artistic illustration of
WELCOME PAVILION AND MORTON PLAZA (6)

Area 2 English Bay Plaza

Where is the noise mitigation proposal and the noise bylaw enforcement plan in the West End Waterfront plan? Where are the funds for additional park rangers who will be needed for noise and crowd control?

I also question the expenditure for the entire project when there are so many citywide park issues that are going unaddressed due to lack of funds.

I strongly urge that you direct staff to go back to the drawing board and come up with a simpler and cheaper plan as well as a noise mitigation proposal.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Elvira Lount

Keep Kits Beach Wild

Former Board of Directors Right to Quiet Society.

- Waterfront
- Beaches
- Quiet Time
- Vancouver
- Quiet Parks



Written by Elvira Lount

1 Follower

Follow



Filmmaker, producer, photographer, administrator, political activist, founder Keep Kits Beach Wild, Member Right To Quiet Society www.utopiapictures.com