



# təmtəmíxʷtən / Belcarra Regional Park Community Engagement Summary

## təmtəmíxʷtən Collaborative Park Planning

təmtəmíxʷtən, also known as “the biggest place for all the people” is one of many Tsleil-Waututh villages surrounding səlilwət (Burrard Inlet). Since time out of mind, the entire landscape of təmtəmíxʷtən and surrounding area was used by Tsleil-Waututh for settlement, hunting, resource harvesting, sacred/health sites, and ceremonial uses, and was home to our largest village until the smallpox epidemic in the 1860s.

Regional District (MVRD) signed a *Cultural Planning and Co-operation Agreement*. This important agreement seeks to preserve TWN values and cultural heritage within the park; protect and enhance TWN’s use and enjoyment of the park; and increase public awareness of TWN and the importance of the area to the Nation.

In recent years, Tsleil-Waututh has taken significant steps to reclaim our connection to təmtəmíxʷtən. In 2020, Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) and Metro Vancouver



## Community Engagement Process

In the fall of 2023, TWN and MVRD initiated a Community Engagement Process to consider the vision and what matters most for the park. Engagement on the Tsleil-Waututh vision for təmtəmíxʷtən occurred through two engagement events and a survey:



**Park Planning Day  
in təmtəmíxʷtən /  
Belcarra Regional  
Park**

Approx.  
**28**  
Participants



**Online, Paper, and In-  
Person Survey**

**66**  
Participants



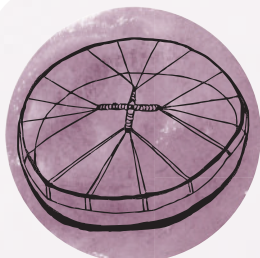
**Park Planning Event  
at Tsleil-Waututh  
Community Centre**

Approx.  
**40**  
Participants

In total, we have engaged with approximately  
**75**  
different Tsleil-Waututh Members so far.

## Engagement Results

The ideas and knowledge shared through the community engagement events and survey were reviewed to draw out the most important themes and priorities relating to təmtə́míxʷtən. Through this analysis, we categorized information into four themes and three types of ideas: **18 Teachings**, **12 Built Form Ideas**, and **22 Programs and Events**. These are summarized below, with the 10 ideas raised most frequently indicated by a **starfish**. ★



*“Many of our ancestors came from this village. It’s an important part of our culture and history.”*

### Culture & History

#### 4 Teachings

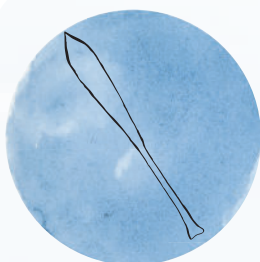
- Respect Elders and teachings
- Honour cultural practices
- Preserve archaeological sites
- Connect history to living story

#### 7 Built Form Ideas

- ★ Cultural & welcome signage
- ★ Welcome poles and other artwork
- Physical space for cultural programming
- Coast Salish design elements
- Village / camp
- Close archaeological sites to the public
- Longhouse

#### 7 Programs and Events

- ★ Storytelling
- Paddling / canoeing
- Cultural celebrations and events
- Drumming and singing
- Cultural classes and workshops
- Culture camps
- Ceremonies



*“Put our people back on this land through family programming and gatherings or events.”*

### Access & Participation

#### 3 Teachings

- Reclaim our connection to the land
- Make the park accessible to all TWN Members
- Increase consistency & awareness of programs

#### 3 Built Form Ideas

- ★ Water transportation to and from TWN reserve
- Accessibility and mobility improvements
- Alternate forms of transportation (e.g. public transit, bicycle).

#### 4 Programs and Events

- ★ TWN representatives in the park
- ★ Celebrations, festivals and fun events on the land
- Programs for TWN children and Youth
- TWN programs in spring and summer





## Learning & Stewardship

### 4 Teachings

- ★ Respect and steward the land
- Show our love for nature
- Acknowledge ancestral lands / village site
- Emphasize our living and evolving connection to land

### 2 Built Form Ideas

- Interpretive centre / museum
- Information panels / brochures

### 6 Programs and Events

- ★ TWN content in public school field trips
- ★ Traditional foods and ecological knowledge workshops
- Public education
- Garbage/clean-up programs
- Guided walks
- Park visitor log (e.g. public sign-in or photo repository)

***“If you care for the land, the land will care for you.”***



## Relationships

### 7 Teachings

- Work together
- Communicate clearly
- Passion and authenticity
- Respect our partnerships
- Work towards reconciliation through action
- Strive for equality in our partnerships
- Follow cultural protocols regarding relationship-building and teamwork

### 5 Programs and Events

- ★ Engagement with TWN
- Build MVRD’s knowledge of TWN and Indigenous Rights
- TWN involvement in planning and decision-making committees
- Receiving equal benefits from the Park
- MVRD support TWN Members’ ideas

***“Reclamation is an intentional act - a declaration of right & responsibility to our lands. It’s ours. It’s home.”***

## Reflections

The themes and ideas summarized in this report come directly from TWN Community Members, who enthusiastically participated in this engagement process. Community Members shared important knowledge and suggestions related to Culture & History, Access & Participation, Learning & Stewardship, and Relationships. Emerging priorities have been identified throughout this report to provide a starting place for continued conversations about park planning and programming.

Beyond gathering hundreds of great ideas, this engagement process also served to bring the TWN community together, build awareness of təmtəmíxʷtən/Belcarra Regional Park, and build relationships with MVRD and TWN staff.



## Next Steps



The two community engagement sessions carried out in September and November 2023 represent the beginning of a long partnership between TWN and Metro Vancouver. This is the start of gathering ideas, information and desires from the TWN community to inform park planning and improve TWN visibility, use of, and access to, the park.

Formal and informal TWN engagement opportunities will continue, and an annual update on the park will be shared with the community to highlight what we have been doing. Emerging priorities will be considered and actioned on an ongoing basis in collaboration with TWN and MVRD.