

COQUITLAM, BC, April 18, 2018 – Play equipment, a spray park, a youth area and washrooms are among the improvements coming to Cottonwood Park.

Monday night, Coquitlam Council approved a detailed design for Phase 1A and gave staff the go-ahead to proceed with this first phase of a multi-phase expansion plan that is anticipated to eventually grow Cottonwood Park, between Cottonwood Avenue and Foster Avenue, from 2.2 acres to 11.5 acres.

Construction of Phase 1A, starting this spring and targeted for completion in June 2019, will upgrade the initial 2.5 acres (1 hectare) of the park and take Cottonwood a step towards becoming community-level park.

Upgrades will include:

- A children’s playground with defined areas for younger and older children, equipment for all abilities and perimeter seating;
- A water play area with elements for both quiet and active play, and perimeter seating;
- A youth activity and social area with seating, skateboarding elements and a basketball hoop;
- A washroom near the playground, spray area and picnic areas;
- A covered picnic shelter; and
- A temporary parking lot.

The Phase 1A budget is \$5.05 million, which includes off-site works (such as road improvements and hydro line relocation), as well as the design fees for both Phase 1A and Phase 1B.

Phase 1B, the next phase of park improvements, is anticipated to be constructed in 2019/20 and will increase the park size to about 5 acres (2 hectares) and include two tennis courts, a multi-sport court, a combined diamond and sports field, and outdoor games tables.

Future phases for the park’s expansion have earmarked additional parking, sport fields, tennis courts and other facilities, but the timelines are unknown given that they require land purchases.

Cottonwood Park’s final planned size of 11.5 acres is almost double what the City had envisioned for the park in 2002. The scope was changed during the development of the Burquitlam-Lougheed Neighbourhood Plan, in recognition of the area’s rapid growth, development and demand for outdoor recreation services. The detailed design for Phase 1A reflects the public feedback provided during the plan development.