

Mission Statement

Parks are an important aspect of sustainable urban development, they increase a city's green space, protect nature ecosystem, provide clean air, and reduce people's anxiety. The Vancouver Park Board maintains more than 230 parks that make up 11% of Vancouver's land mass. The large selection of parks in Vancouver gives Vancouver's residents great opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and promote awareness for having accessible green spaces in an urban environment.

According to the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, Vancouver plans to increase green space in neighborhoods and increase the amount of green transportation on the road. The goal of 2020 Greenest City Plan inspired our group to design a web app to promote park use while reducing environmental impact. We developed a park finder to find the parks that suit the user's need, then we incorporated transit, bike lanes, and electric charging stations to present the user with multiple ways of reducing greenhouse gas output when traveling.

As the urban area expands, the web app we developed will encourage residents to support the idea of preserving and creating new green spaces by making green spaces more accessible and customizable. At the same time, promoting a greener way of traveling.

How to use?

Navigation: This widget is designed for quick search transportation route in the City of Vancouver. End users can plan their travel by customizing their transportation tools, time, start points and destinations. In addition, it provides a function to add inter-destinations by using "add stops" and avoid locations by using "add barriers."

Park filter: Facilities contained in parks are very different, so this widget is designed to search for parks by facilities. Five options can be filtered on the map, and they are the beach, dog-off-leash, lighted field, playground, and washroom. These options can be used separately and together, for example, end users can see parks on the map that have both restroom and playground.

Near me Parks/EV Charging Stations/Bus Stops: By using this widget, the nearby parks/EV charging stations/bus stops will show on the map, the searching radius can also be customized. This function provides a very straight-forward result for end users, and they can see the specific location highlighted within the search range.

Query: Query is designed to search parks as a buffer, this function provides more efficient park searching experience. End users can choose the distance from their interested facilities such as Skytrain stations, and the result is presented by pinpoint on the map and listed details in the Results panel. Moreover, users can draw area they interested in the map to obtain the search result.

Bookmark: Locations can be marked/recorded in this widget, it is designed to provide convenience for end users. For instance, users can mark and save the places they have been.

Reference:

1. Greenest City 2020 Action Plan. (2012). Retrieved April 4th, 2019, from <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Greenest-city-action-plan.pdf>
2. Parks, Gardens, and Beaches. City Vancouver - <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-gardens-and-beaches.aspx>

Data sources:

1. Vancouver Open Data Catalogue: <https://data.vancouver.ca/datacatalogue/index.htm>
2. SFU Data Warehouse