CITY OF VANCOUVER

COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: September 22, 2026
Contact: Andrew Newman
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RTS No.: 19831
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 17, 2026
Submit comments to Council

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management, and General Manager of Engineering Services, in consultation with the General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: 722 Gore Avenue – Close, Stop-up, Raise Title and Permanent Park Designation

Recommendations

THAT Council close, stop-up and raise title to that approximately 0.286-hectare (0.706 acre) portion of road at 722 Gore Avenue (the "Property"), the same as shown in Appendix "A", subject to the terms and conditions noted in Appendix "B"; and

FURTHER THAT subject to Recommendation A being approved, Council designate, pursuant to section 488(5) of the *Vancouver Charter*, the Property as permanent public park.

If Council approves the recommendations as contained in this report, the Formal Resolution to close the Property will be before Council later this day for approval.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval to close, stop-up and raise title to the Property and designate it as permanent public park pursuant to section 488(5) of the *Vancouver Charter*. The Property is currently dedicated City-street but has historically functioned as public green space. Permanent park designation would formalize its long-term status as parkland and place the Property under the jurisdiction and control of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

Staff have completed an interdepartmental review and no major concerns with permanent park designation were identified.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

The authority for closing and disposing of streets and lanes is set out in the *Vancouver Charter*.

As outlined in Section 488 of the *Vancouver Charter* the Board of Parks and Recreation has exclusive possession of, and exclusive jurisdiction and control of all areas designated as permanent or temporary public parks in the city.

Land can be designated as a permanent public park by:

(a) a declaration as such by a resolution or by-law of Council;

(b) statutory appropriation of specific real property for park purposes;

(c) dedication by either a person or by the City by deposit of a subdivision plan in the Vancouver Land Registry Office;

(d) gift to the City for permanent public park purposes;

(e) covenant in a document transferring real property to the City indicating that the transferred lands are to be used for park purposes together with acceptance of same by the City;

(f) purchases made with funds borrowed with the assent of the electors under Part V for the acquisition of permanent public parks.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

In October 2024, Council directed staff to report back with recommendations for park designation of the City-owned lands at 722 Gore Avenue and the adjoining right-of-way to Keefer Street, including consideration of the most appropriate and expeditious form of designation under the *Vancouver Charter*.

The Property was originally dedicated as road upon the registration of Subdivision Plan 13098 in 1968. At that time, a large road widening was deemed necessary to accommodate a major connection to the downtown street network. With the evolution of the City's transportation strategies over the years, staff have determined that the Property is no longer required for this purpose. The Property was also previously considered as a location for a temporary firehall annex to support Firehall #2, but subsequent reviews concluded that it was not a suitable site.

Discussion

While the approximately 0.286 hectare Property is currently dedicated as City-street, it has historically functioned as a public green space. Permanent park designation would formalize this longstanding use and provide certainty that the Property will remain protected for park purposes to serve a growing population in the Downtown East side Planning areas.

Existing underground sewer infrastructure located within the Property will be appropriately secured through the registration of Statutory Right of Way agreements to preserve continued access for their operation, maintenance, repair and replacement and to clearly define associated responsibilities. Suitable arrangements will also be made with regards to proposed public art installations over portions of the new permanent park, with oversight by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

Permanent Park designation does not constitute approval or funding for park improvements, programming or naming. Any future changes to the Property would be considered separately and would be subject to appropriate planning, funding, and community engagement. Given the interest of Strathcona and Chinatown residents and community groups, future planning would include an appropriately scoped engagement process, including consideration of park naming.

In the interim, the Property can continue to function as publicly accessible green space.

The Park Board General Manager has been engaged in the property review process and supports the report recommendations, which are consistent with the Board Motion adopted on September 23, 2024, regarding the preservation and protection of the green space at Gore Avenue and Union Street.

Financial Implications

The property is currently maintained by Park Board Operations on behalf of Engineering Services, with maintenance costs funded by Engineering. Subject to approval of Recommendation B, staff will confirm the appropriate ongoing operating funding arrangement. The street right-of-way functioning as green space north of the Property will continue to be maintained by Park Board.

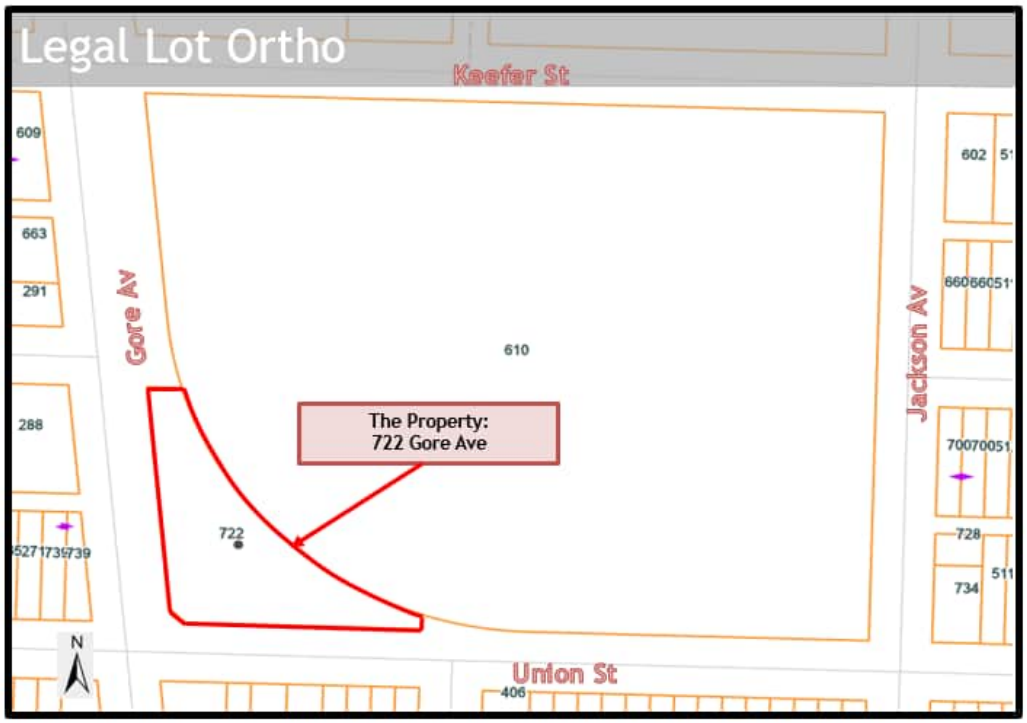
Legal Implications

If adopted, Recommendation B in this report would grant, pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*, permanent public park status to the Property as identified in Appendix “A”, thus granting greater authority to the Board of Parks and Recreation in respect of that park. The Director, Legal Services does not have any concern with the Recommendation.

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APPENDIX A
THE PROPERTY






Area-Wide Ortho
Keefer St
Gore Av
Jackson Av
The Property:
722 Gore Ave
Union St


Street View: 722 Gore Ave
Union St

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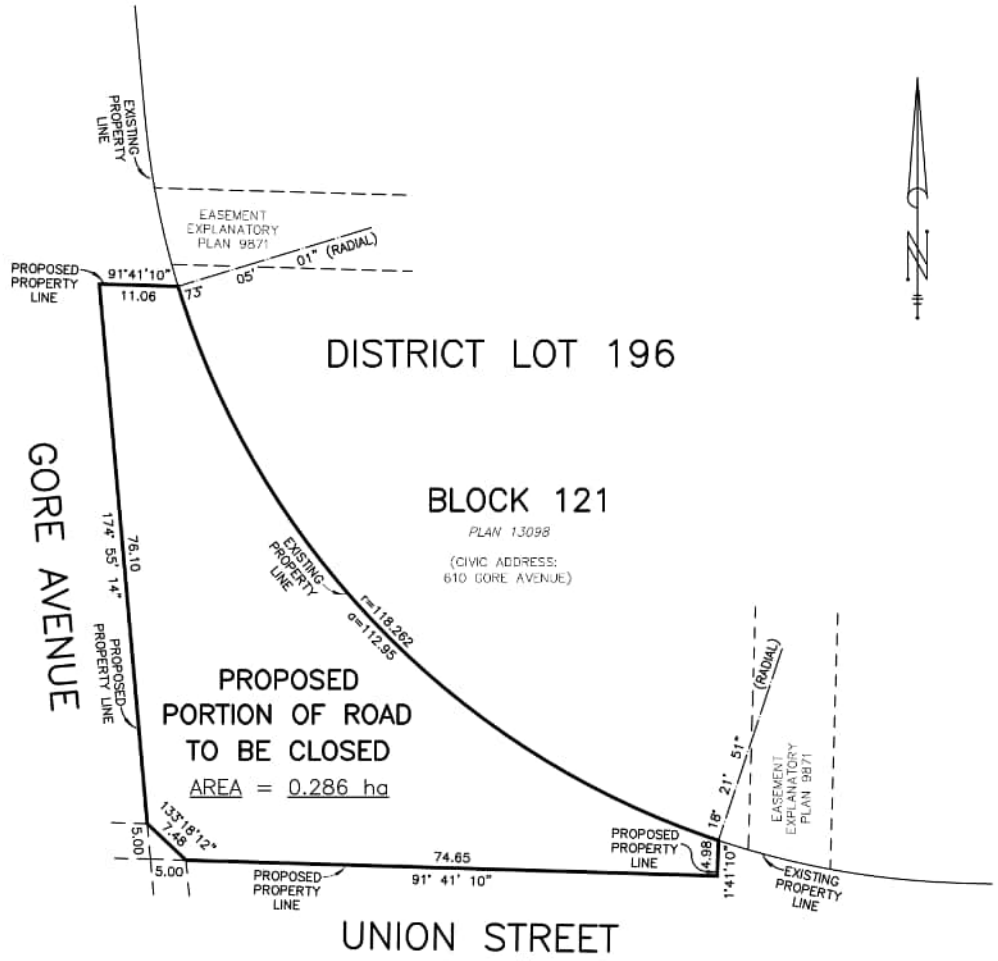
SKETCH PLAN OF PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE BEING A PORTION DEDICATED BY THE DEPOSIT OF PLAN 13098, ADJACENT TO BLOCK 121, DISTRICT LOT 196, GROUP 1, NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT

20 0 20 40m

ALL DISTANCES ARE IN METRES AND DECIMALS THEREOF.

SCALE 1:600

(INTENDED PLOT SIZE B – 11"x17")



NOTES:

- PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS ARE DERIVED FROM FIELD SURVEY.
- THIS SKETCH WAS PREPARED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND IS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER.

SKETCH PREPARED: APRIL 10, 2024

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APPENDIX B
Terms and Conditions of Road Closure

1. The approximately 0.286-hectare (0.706 acre) Property is to be closed and title raised to form a new City-owned fee-simple parcel, all to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Engineering Services (GMES) and the Director of Legal Services;

2. Since there is no title to the Property (dedicated to the City by the registration of Plan 13098 in 1968), a Reference Plan to Accompany Resolution of Council of the City of Vancouver will be required;

3. Appropriate provisions will be made with regards to the registration of a Statutory Right of Way agreement for sewer purposes over the new park parcel, which will be required to protect, maintain, and access the existing 500mm storm and 250mm sanitary sewer mains including all related infrastructure. Dimensions of the SRW is to be determined by, and to the satisfaction of the GMES;

4. Suitable arrangements will be made with regards to proposed public art installations over portions of the new Permanent Public Park area and the transfer of responsibility and oversight to the Board of Parks and Recreation;

5. Since the Road Portion will not be consolidated with an abutting parcel (and therefore will not “acquire” the appurtenant zoning of the adjacent lands), a site-specific zoning will need to be considered and designated to the new park parcel;

6. Any agreements are to be drawn to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services;

7. No legal right or obligation shall be created, and none shall arise hereafter until the documents are executed by the parties thereto and fully registered in the Land Title Office.

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