

# VPSN Public Space Update | 19.08.09

## VPSN UPDATES & KEY ACTIVITES

- :: Wednesday, August 19 - Potluck & Discussion: Critical Mass - **TODAY**
- :: Thursday August 20 - Mapping & Wayfinding Meeting
- :: Sunday August 23 - Surveillance Mapping Day
- :: Newsletter and Website Redesign - Your Input Needed!!

## ENGAGE

- :: Board of Variance Consultation
- :: Pedal Power Railway Parade Project

## EVENTS

- :: September 12 - 26 - Lost Streams Walks

## & MORE...

- :: [DOWNLOAD PDF VERSION OF NEWSLETTER](#)

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## VPSN UPDATES & KEY ACTIVITES

### Wednesday, August 19 - Potluck & Discussion: Critical Mass, We Are Traffic

After several years of excellent rides, Vancouver's Critical Mass has been getting some massive press of late, not all of it favourable. With record numbers of cyclists now joining in the monthly ride, questions are being raised about the role and future of CM in the city. Some of the key folks involved with Critical Mass are organizing a discussion and potluck on this subject.

“Regardless of how long you have been riding in Critical Mass, the time feels right to get together to strategize on the present nature of CM, and on the future of these empowering and somewhat controversial rides. What is your favorite part of the ride, and are there elements we should leave behind?”

Takes place at 6pm at David Lam Park on the seawall near the Roundhouse.  
(Rain location: Roundhouse Community Centre)

- :: For more information see the [complete event details](#)

## Thursday August 20 - Mapping & Wayfinding Meeting

Our next VPSN mapping meeting will take place the day after tomorrow. We'll be discussing the greenmapping project (and reviewing draft maps; but also data access, wayfinding, perhaps a t-shirt design, along with all the other fun random stuff that usually comes up. The meeting takes place at 7:00pm and Our Town Café (Broadway & Kingsway). All are welcome!

:: For more information - eliana [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## Sunday August 23 - Surveillance Mapping Day

This Sunday, in collaboration with the SFU Surveillance Project, we'll be undertaking a one-day mapping of CCTV in the Downtown Eastside and Downtown business district. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project.

Bring a pen and a clipboard if you have one, a digital camera too, (if you happen to have one at your disposal). We'll provide the recording sheets, and a quick tutorial and overview on how best to surveil the many unblinking cameras that monitor public space.

Meet at 10:00am at Victory Square (the public park at Cambie and Hastings). The mapping will probably take several hours. We're going ahead rain or shine.

PLEASE REGISTER through our [Facebook event listing](#), so we know you're coming. You can also [register using our online form](#) if you're not on Facebook.

:: For more information see the [VPSN Surveillance & Security webpages](#)  
:: Additional details - cctv [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## Newsletter and Website Redesign - Your Input Needed!!

We're working on a plan to make the VPSN publication friendlier, less-text-driven, more visual, better laid out. We've got the basic format in place and are now looking for help in two main areas:

**Help us name the new publication.** We're looking for something catchy that reflects some or all of the following: the idea of public space, the VPSN's activities and values, the Vancouver urban experience, and...? Got any ideas? Sure you do. Send them our way by the end of the month!

**Call for Submissions.** If you're interested in lending a hand (or pen, or

picture, or editorial eye) please let us know now, as we are assembling a roster of contributors and volunteers. Our new issue will roll out in late September and we're looking for contributions that deal with the theme of **Re-presenting Public Space**.

:: Email us on any of these items: [newsletter \[at\] vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:newsletter@vancouverpublicspace.ca)

**Website.** In addition to a news newsletter, we're also working to transition to a brand new website. We'd like to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see in the new site, and how you'd like it to work for you. If you have a moment or two, please consider filling our quick and easy VPSN website survey. It's only a few short questions, but your input will go a long way to helping us!

:: Take the VPSN Website Survey - [click here](#).

## ENGAGE

### Board of Variance Consultation

From Reinstate Third Party Appeals:

“On 9 July 2009, Council voted to implement a comprehensive community consultative process with a goal of revising and improving upon a new Board of Variance By-Law recently drafted by the City's Legal and Planning Departments. The consultative process will conclude in October 2009 with a meeting and, we hope, will include preparing amendments to the Charter, to be presented to the Province, to restore third-party appeals.”

This issue has implications for the nature of resident involvement with neighbourhood planning issues.

:: [Read more on the Board of Variance Consultation](#)

:: View the [reinstatethirdpartyappeals.org](http://reinstatethirdpartyappeals.org) website

### Pedal Power Railway Parade Project

The Vancouver Design Nerds are working on a Pedal Powered Railway Parade project. The project will create pedal-powered contraptions to be deployed in conjunction with a public celebration. The contraptions, a marriage of kinetic sculpture, vehicle and stage, will become the focus of a series of public events, celebrations and festivals in Vancouver and beyond. Current plans for the railway include a pedal-powered locomotive and an audaciously beautiful, multi-sensory, musical railcar. Railway construction will conclude in June 2010 to coincide with Bike Month.

A fundraiser for project will be held soon, and we'd love people to join us in creating and promoting this event. Stay tuned for updates on the website and in future VPSN emails! The more people that get involved, the merrier! So, if you are someone who likes to design things, whether by drawing, computer, metal working, costume design, words, etcetera, join us in this creative playful design process.

:: To find out more, visit the [Design Nerds website](#)

## EVENTS

Check out our website for some excellent public space events happening around town. Here's a recent addition:

### September 12 - 26 - Lost Streams Walks

The False Creek Watershed Society presents the 2nd annual Lost Streams Walks for September as "Wild Salmon Month" in Vancouver.

September 12 - Musqueam Creek - Vancouver's last wild salmon stream - walk with Terry Point.

September 13 - Gibby's Field - part of China Creek's once-vast system - walk with Dan Fass

September 19 - Tatlow and Macdonald Creek - from wild native creek to cityscape - walk with Bruce Macdonald

September 19 - Lake at the Head Creek - Dunbar's wild coho heritage - walk with Terry Slack

September 20 - Vancouver's Last Steelhead Run - walk with Terry Slack

September 26 - False Creek Seawall to Senakw - walk with Chief Bill Williams

Please register for walks on Event-Brite. For information on this and FCWS other events, please check [www.falsecreekwatershed.org](http://www.falsecreekwatershed.org).

**If you have an public space-related event that you'd like to share, send us an email at [events \[at\] vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:events@vancouverpublicspace.ca)**

## SUPPORT THE VPSN

The Vancouver Public Space Network is an all-volunteer, community-driven enterprise that works on advocacy, education and outreach pertaining to the city's public realm. We depend on member contributions in order to undertake our projects and activities. Looking to lend a hand? Please consider [making a donation](#) or signing up for one of our [volunteer projects](#). Thanks!

## CONTACT

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**Newsletter Submissions:** newsletter [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

**Facebook:** [VPSN Facebook Group](#)

**Flickr:** VPSN [group](#) and [photostream](#)

**Twitter:** twitter.com/vpsn