

Date: April 9, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Accomplishments Report 2009

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

Mission: *"to provide, preserve and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit people, communities and the environment"*.

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is responsible for:

People: leisure and sports, education, arts and culture, youth, children and seniors, ensuring accessibility

Places: community centres, rinks, pools, fitness centres, restaurants, concessions, marinas, clubhouses

Parks: city-wide and neighborhood green spaces, remnant woodlands, beaches, display gardens, playing fields, conservatory, golf courses, street trees

The wide range of park and recreation programs, delivered directly and through partners, contributes to healthy communities and families and to a healthy environment and economy for the City. Many activities benefit people's lives no matter their age, ability, interest or economic means. The Park Board champions personal and community well-being - connecting neighbours, improving the natural landscape and keeping lives in balance.

Programs are diverse and popular:

- 223 parks, comprising 1,300 hectares or 11% of the City's land area
- 23 community centres, 9 indoor and 5 outdoor pools, 8 ice rinks, 24 fitness centres
- 3 full-length golf courses and 3 pitch & putt golf courses
- 153 playing fields, 179 tennis courts, 58 other sport courts, 6 skateboard parks
- 156 children's playgrounds, 138 diamonds, 7 cricket pitches
- 18 kilometres of beaches, 2 marinas
- 100+ kilometres of pathways
- 137,000 street trees

DISCUSSION

This report highlights the key accomplishments, enhanced programs and new services of the Board, staff and partners in 2009, all focused at the five directions of the Strategic Plan 2005-2010: Greening the Park Board, Engaging People, Working Together, Managing Resources and Meeting Future Challenges. The five-year plan assisted the Park Board to stay relevant, manage its resources wisely and deliver on its mission.

The Board is committed to measuring its performance against organizational objectives in order to remain accountable, continuously improve and evaluate success. A number of performance indicators are presented in each strategic area to track progress. (*Note: 2007 figures were affected by the 12 week work stoppage.*)

2009 Accomplishments

1. Greening the Park Board

“Develop sustainable policies and practices to achieve environmental objectives while meeting the needs of the community”

The preservation and enhancement of the natural environment is a core responsibility of the Park Board. The organization continued to pursue a more sustainable approach to doing business.

During the year, the Park Board promoted and advocated for urban ecology and environmental education. Staff hosted guided tree walks in Queen Elizabeth and Stanley Parks as part of the City’s annual Spring Cherry Blossom Festival. With community partners, Earth Day was celebrated with tree plantings and family activities at Everett Crowley, Hastings and Jericho Parks. Community events and park clean-ups were held by the volunteer groups under the ParkPartners program, including Stanley Park Ecology Society Ivy Busters and Jericho Park Stewardship invasive plant removals. The Mason Bee project was developed with the Environmental Youth Alliance to improve habitat for pollinator bees through building lodges in Stanley Park and other locations.

High standards of building sustainability and performance were integrated into all new facility projects – with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold level targeted for Mt Pleasant Community Centre, Vancouver Olympic/ Paralympic Centre and Killarney Rink; LEED Silver level targeted for Trout Lake Rink; and LEED Platinum (the highest) level targeted for Southeast False Creek Community Centre.

The Park Board's drive towards sustainability was again spearheaded by the Corporate Change Action Plan – Phase 11 and a reduction of 2,240 tonnes per year of greenhouse gases. The two-year retrofit of Park Board facilities is scheduled for completion by Spring 2010. There were a total of 120 projects at 30 sites, the goal being to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases through upgrades of ventilation, heating, hot water, control and lighting systems. Lighting projects, half the building control projects and nine boilers were completed in 2008. The remainder of the building controls and a further six boiler projects were completed in 2009. This schedule provides time to review and fine tune the systems early in 2010.

The Energy Consumption web site, developed by Park Board staff, now includes vehicle fuel consumption and is also being used by the City. The Park Board and City have jointly applied for a BC Hydro funded program: Continuous Optimization, providing web based tracking of energy consumption. The program was piloted during the 2010 Winter Games at the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre and Southeast False Creek Community Centre as part of a joint VANOC/Pulse Energy initiative.

LED lights illuminated the popular holiday displays at Lost Lagoon Fountain, VanDusen Festival of Lights, Bright Nights in Stanley Park and the Elm Grove on Bidwell Street, providing longer life and greatly reduced consumption levels.

Ethical and sustainable purchasing initiatives continued at Park Board offices and facilities to collectively reduce impacts on the environment - including use of green certified cleaning products, recycled copy machines and copy paper, printing of envelopes and letterhead on 100% recycled materials, energy efficiency requirements of courier service contractor, ethically sourced sports and staff clothing, and certified fair trade coffee, sugar packets and chocolate bars. In 2009, the administration offices in Stanley Park adopted a backyard composter for staff use, to handle kitchen waste.

Performance Measures

Park Board environmental programs are achieving results:

Cumulative reduction in water from conversion of irrigation to central control

2006 - 18 million gallons (30%)

2007 - 22.5 million gallons (30%)

2008 – 27.0 million gallons (30%)

2009 – 31.5 million gallons (30%)

The Corporate Climate Change Action Program, which is approximately three quarters complete, has reduced CO₂ emissions by 1,740 tonnes, the equivalent of 330 cars off the road a year (700,000 litres of gasoline). For comparison, the Park Board's fleet gasoline consumption for 2009 was 660,000 litres.

2. Engaging People

“Integrate the concept of wellness into park and recreation services and provide opportunities for everyone to access these services”

The concept of wellness means practicing all the things that keep people well and happy: enjoying the arts, learning new skills and building community spirit. All people must be able to participate.

Public art remained an important part of the Park Board’s promotion of the arts in everyday life. Based on two years of collaboration between artists, ecologists and park stewards, four semi-permanent works were created and installed for the Stanley Park Environmental Art Project; one new and ongoing ecologist/artist collaboration was also developed. A new commemorative cedar pole by First Nations artist Robert Yelton was installed in the Totems Area of Stanley Park. A bronze bust of Hiroshima survivor and Vancouver peace activist Kinuko Laskey was installed in Seaforth Peace Park. Work continued with Vancouver Biennale Foundation for their 2009 - 2011 outdoor sculpture exhibit; 11 works were installed. Two locations – Carnegie Centre and Dunbar Community Centre - completed six month Artists in Communities (f. Artists in Residence) programs.

Nine community building projects were approved under the Neighborhood Matching Fund for various murals, banners, plantings and mosaic works to be installed in a number of parks and at facilities. An additional nine matching fund projects funded in previous years were completed in 2009. ‘Monsters in the Meadow’ again featured free outdoor movie screenings in Stanley Park and free summer concerts were held at Haywood Bandstand in the West End. A series of 14 ‘Remarkable Women’ posters was created to mark International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month; poster making workshops were held at community centres. An electronic media project entitled “Flow” was commissioned by the City for the new Mt Pleasant Civic Centre.

Active Communities Vancouver continued to inspire and equip residents and City staff to “Step it Up 20%”. They introduced all 33,000 Vancouver elementary students at 91 schools to the Active Adventure Passports with special park days and athlete presentations; promoted an expanded series of Olympic venue Step Out walks; hosted the Stay Active, Eat Healthy forum to support community associations in providing healthy food and beverages in their programs; and worked with the Red Fox Active Outreach program to provide Aboriginal youth leadership during active adventure days and the Canadian SportFit program.

The City’s diversity was marked and celebrated at a number of community centres through Diwali, the annual festival of lights – seven mini festivals were held across the city culminating in a city wide celebration attended by over 6,000 people. For the third year, seniors worked with artists in a unique community cultural development and health initiative in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. The Park Board again cosponsored the Cultural Harmony Awards which recognized community work that results in better understanding and acceptance of diversity.

Communications strategies continued to help residents keep abreast of Park Board activities and their benefits: the Annual Report (published in both English and Chinese) and the semi-annual Leisure Guide reached more diverse audiences. Additional enhancements to the design and content of the public website contributed just under 2.9 million visits to vancouverparks.ca. Social media (Facebook and Twitter) was introduced to expand communications with residents and partners. A newly designed and updated Stanley Park Map & Guide was produced with participation from park stakeholders; distribution was expanded to reach tourists and residents.

The city-wide Go Play! marketing campaign continued to encourage active living and participation at rinks, pools and fitness centres across a variety of diverse user groups. Promotions aimed at retaining and attracting new users highlighted our value proposition to consumers. To further increase public awareness of recreation services, the Go Play! campaign participated at several Park Board and community events such as Bright Nights with interactive and static displays. Also, new Go Play Outdoors! instructor-led health and wellness programs were developed and offered at Vancouver's parks and beaches to provide the public with another fun, affordable and accessible recreation option.

A new Seniors Wellness Circuit opened in Tisdall Park designed to keep seniors active. Vancouver General Hospital's Happy Hearts Alliance fitness centre opened at Kensington Community Centre to promote cardio vascular health.

During 2009, 132,000 rounds of golf were booked using the internet reservation system, up 7% from last year. Online registration for recreation programs, with 29,434 transactions, was up 71% from 2008.

Performance Measures

Park Board neighborhood facilities continue to offer fun, affordable and accessible recreation. Income at pools, rinks and fitness centres reflects user participation.

Revenues at Pools (admissions, rentals, lessons)

2005 - \$4.2 million

2006 - \$5.1 million

2007 - \$3.8 million

2008 - \$5.6 million

2009 - \$6.0 million

Revenues at Rinks (admissions, rentals, lessons)

2005 - \$1.4 million

2006 - \$1.9 million

2007 - \$1.5 million

2008 - \$1.6 million (note: Trout Lake and Killarney Rinks under construction)

2009 - \$2.1 million

Revenues at Fitness Centres (admissions, rentals, lessons)

2005 - \$1.4 million

2006 - \$1.5 million

2007 – \$1.3 million

2008 - \$1.8 million

2009 - \$2.1 million

Recreation-related website visits account for 50% of the top 60 visited pages on vancouverparks.ca (up from 30% a year ago).

Total Web Site Visits

2005 - 1.6 million

2006 - 2.5 million

2007 – 2.3 million

2008 – 2.9 million

2009 – 2.83 million

3. Working Together

“Integrate public involvement in decision-making and services and expand partnerships with community groups and other agencies”

As a cornerstone to decision-making, the Park Board listened to and actively sought the ideas of partners, stakeholders, employees and residents.

Public meetings, open houses and workshops were opportunities to have direct dialogue, to share information, build consensus, reduce conflicts, and plan together for the future. During 2009, the Board held six regular meetings out in community centres to bring decision making to the neighbourhoods and to make it easier for residents to attend. Thirty four open house and workshop events were hosted to give residents an opportunity to review and provide input into concepts, designs and plans for Trillium Park development, Stanley Park Forest Management Plan, Trout Lake Community Centre redevelopment, Kensington Park Skateboard Park, Vanier Park BMX/Mountain Bike Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden facilities renewal, improvements to Grandview Park, new English Bay bistro, public art at Kits Beach, Dog Off Leash areas at Fraser River Park, Portside Park, Stanley Park, Devonian Park and Second Beach, portable toilets in parks pilot project, Oppenheimer Park redevelopment, Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan, new synthetic turf playing fields, future of Mount Pleasant Park, 2010 Fees and Charges, 2010 Operating Budget, smoking restrictions in parks, Kits Beach accessible playground and Prince Edward Park playground.

The commemorative naming of Ken's Kitchen at the Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre was completed in accordance with the Park Board's naming policies. A new dog off-leash area was added in the West End's Devonian Park.

Working together with Vancouver Fire & Rescue, Metro Vancouver and BC Forest Service, the Park Board continued its long-standing participation in an inter-agency, coordinated approach to prevent and prepare for fires in the urban forest. In May, the Park Board participated in a multi-agency mock plane crash and fire scenario in Stanley Park to evaluate emergency protocols and procedures. The City and Park Board worked with Vancouver Coastal Health to provide information and prevention strategies to staff and residents about the H1N1 flu outbreak.

Performance Measures

Residents are invited to be part of the discussions and decisions around park and facility development.

Public Consultations Conducted

2005 - 33

2006 - 39

2007 - 15

2008 - 14

2009 - 34

4. Managing Resources

“Strengthen fiscal responsibility and pursue alternative sources of funding”

The Park Board is committed to maximizing available funds and demonstrating financial accountability.

Close monitoring of the Park Board’s 2009 operating budget of \$61.4 million ensured effective use of resources. Overall the Board was underspent by \$0.9 million at year end. However the Global Budget arrangement with the City recognizes that a number of costs are not under the direct control of the Board. Once the \$1.1 million net savings of these costs is excluded from the Board’s accounts, the Park Board financial statements show an over expenditure of \$189,000 or 0.3% of the net operating budget.

The Donation program collected an additional \$787,597 in funds in 2009 including \$691,436 in donations and \$96,161 in interest. After all program expenses were deducted, there was a net increase of \$390,986 in the year which brings the total donation balance as of December 31, 2009 to \$2,697,787. The Donations program continues to provide opportunities for the public to participate and support the Park Board; the sustainable funding helps reduce the reliance on tax revenues.

During 2009, the Stanley Park Restoration Project collected \$4,870 in donations, earned \$56,748 in interest and generated \$6,720 in revenue from log sales for a total increase in funds of \$68,338. Once expenses of \$1,093,660 are accounted for, the Project spent a total of \$1,025,322 in 2009, leaving a balance of \$913,230 remaining in the fund to carry out the sustainment work outlined in the Stanley Park Forest Management Plan.

Staff, stakeholders and residents were invited to learn more about and give input to the 2010 Fees & Charges and Operating Budget through a budget information process available via the web site and at Park Board facilities.

The Park Board participated in the City's comprehensive Vancouver Services Review project aimed at maximizing service impacts and financial efficiencies.

Working in collaboration and partnership with other Park Board business units, the Business Development group undertook several key initiatives in 2009. These included:

- leveraging relationships with the City, VANOC, and key industry partners to generate incremental revenues of approximately \$700,000 from Olympic-related activities (facility/location rentals, broadcasting/filming agreements, etc.);
- leading the development of the VanDusen Botanical Garden's 2012-2017 Business Plan which played an important role in assisting VanDusen to secure \$6.4 million of federal government funding for the Garden's new Visitor Centre capital project;
- executing the transfer of the Celebration Pavilion (a special events facility in Queen Elizabeth Park) to a private operator; and
- assisting to secure sponsorship revenues for several Park Board programs and services.

Although Fraserview, McCleery and Langara courses were closed for portions of January and February because of heavy snow, the balance of the golfing year was successful. The continuing focus on marketing and special promotions combined with the first year of the Vancouver Open Tour tournament brought extensive media attention to the facilities and reinforced the Vancouver Parks Golf brand. Continued effort was put into measuring customer satisfaction and improving clubhouse food service operations.

Performance Measures

The Park Board seeks to reduce its reliance on tax payers and increase revenues from user fees and charges and business operations.

Share of total operating expenditure not funded by taxes.

2005 - \$33.2 million (38.6%)

2006 - \$36.1 million (39.5%)

2007 - \$28.2 million (36.4%)

2008 - \$37.5 million (38.7%)

2009 - \$42.3 million (41.2%)

Income generated from parking, golf, marinas and food operations helps to subsidize the delivery of other park and recreation programs.

Lease revenues

2005 - \$1.6 million

2006 - \$2.1 million

2007 - \$1.9 million
2008 - \$2.2 million
2009 - \$2.1 million

Concession revenues
2005 - \$2.7 million
2006 - \$3.1 million
2007 - \$2.5 million
2008 - \$3.3 million
2009 - \$3.6 million

Many residents choose to make a difference by investing in the future of parks and recreation.

Annual Donations and Commemorative Gifts

2005 - \$1 million
2006 - \$1.2 million
2007 - \$0.9 million (excluding Stanley Park Restoration)
2008 - \$0.8 million (excluding Stanley Park Restoration)
2009 - \$0.8 million (excluding Stanley Park Restoration)

Stanley Park Restoration Donations received in 2009
\$0.1 million (including interest)

Reserves are set up to accumulate funds from outside sources for specific purposes. They provide opportunities to engage the public in providing programs which augment basic services.

Reserve Balances
2005 - \$2.9 million
2006 - \$3.7 million
2007 - \$8.5 million (including Stanley Park Restoration)
2008 - \$5.6 million (including Stanley Park Restoration)
2009 - \$6.0 million (including Stanley Park Restoration)

5. Meeting Future Challenges

“Renew aging infrastructure and adapt park and recreation facilities to accommodate growth and meet changing needs”

As the City’s population continues to grow and demographics change, the Park Board will need more parkland and recreation facilities to keep pace.

In 2009, Capital Budget expenditures totaled \$27 million. Capital projects usually span several years, so the spending in any one year does not necessarily reflect the total cost of a project. 2009 spending for our Olympic facilities (Hillcrest complex, Trout Lake Rink and Killarney Rink) totaled \$12M. \$7M was spent on parks and trees with the largest

projects being Oppenheimer & Emery Barnes Parks and Andy Livingston field. \$4M was spent on other facilities (Renfrew CC/Pool renewal, Trout Lake CC, Nat Bailey Stadium improvements and VanDusen Botanical Gardens renewal). The remaining funds were spent on major maintenance (\$3M) and planning, land acquisition and partnership programs like Neighbourhood Matching fund and Park Partners (\$1M total).

During 2009, a number of important park and facility projects were completed:

- The stunning new Mt Pleasant Community Centre was opened to the public at year end in its new home at 1 Kingsway. (This project was managed by the City of Vancouver).
- The four spectacular 2010 Winter Games legacy facilities were finished: Trout Lake and Killarney Ice Rinks (training venues), Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre (competition venue) and Southeast False Creek Community Centre (in the Olympic Village).
- The gift shop and public washrooms at the busy Brockton Point Visitors Centre were expanded.
- Ebisu Park in Marpole and Oak Meadows Park in South Cambie were officially opened.
- The final phase of Stanley Park's Prospect Point realignment included the opening of the new 'Lowden's Lookout' deck and extensive landscaping.
- A renovated plaza in Cathedral Square with new seating, lighting and plantings was reinstated following the installation of an underground hydro substation.
- The dog park in Coopers Park extension was renovated, featuring a new playground, walkways, seawall, kayak storage and sculpture.
- A new Seniors Wellness Circuit was built in Tisdall Park, with 13 fitness stations to help seniors stay mobile and physically active.
- Substantial upgrades were completed in the Downtown East Side's popular Pigeon Park, including retaining of the old trees, new benches, tables, kiosks and artwork.
- The ageing synthetic turf on two fields of Andy Livingstone Park was completely replaced.
- Upgrades to China Creek South Park were finished to include a new community garden, playground, plaza and changes to its long-time skateboard park.
- The new waterfront Southeast False Creek Hinge Park was completed, featuring a wetland, benches, bridges, paths and play elements. A Plaza with stage, seating and lighting was also finished adjacent to the nearby Community Centre.
- Over \$15 million in Federal Infrastructure Stimulus funding was secured for ten construction-ready park and facility infrastructure projects, reducing budget pressures and accelerating renewal plans.
- Playgrounds were renovated in Sunset and Locarno Parks to better serve families.
- Site selection was made for a new skateboard facility at Kensington Community Centre and for a new BMX/Mountain Bike park at Vanier.
- A review and inventory of washrooms in parks was initiated, to assist with capital plan spending priorities. An ongoing port-a-potty trial was put in place in a dozen selected parks.

- A future community centre and waterfront trail on 25 acres of park were secured through rezoning of East Fraser Lands.

The restoration of Stanley Park following the devastating windstorm of 2006 was completed. Revenues to date from donations and other sources for restoration work totaled \$10.6 million by year end. Activities carried out during 2009 included:

- New observation deck and landscaping completed at Prospect Point
- Long-term forest management plan approved

Working as a partner with VANOC and the City, the Park Board continued its many 2010 Winter Games preparations throughout the year. In addition to completion of the Games venues at Hillcrest Park, Killarney and Trout Lake and Southeast False Creek, the Park Board also again participated in the series of Game Plan information sessions and open houses around the City for staff, stakeholders and residents.

Some of the other 2010 Winter Games initiatives that the Park Board led or facilitated during the year were:

- Official public openings of the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre, Killarney Ice Rink and Trout Lake Ice Rink
- Planning for the use of Coal Harbour Community Centre as the official protocol operations centre
- Negotiating the use of Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre by the Italian National Olympic Committee.
- Facilitating location rentals and broadcasting/filming agreements in parks
- Developing one of the two LiveCity Vancouver Sites at David Lam Park
- Approval of the use of parts of Jericho and Spanish Bank Parks as temporary RV sites to accommodate Games visitors
- Hosting of One Year Countdown celebrations including free skates and a winter walk
- Planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays in Vancouver
- Supporting Host a City Happening celebrations in various neighbourhoods
- Developing public art at 2010 venues and in parks
- Expanding 2010 content on the Park Board public web site and Host City web site
- Developing and distributing other public information materials for residents such as a community Olympic insert for the winter Leisure Guide and special transportation maps
- Involvement of more than 60 Park Board staff on the Host City Team
- Staff engagement initiatives to build awareness and excitement around the Games

Performance Measures

The Park Board continues to work closely with the School Board and community sports groups to maximize field use through development of artificial turfs and other initiatives.

Artificial sports fields available

2005 - 3

2006 - 4

2007 - 4

2008 - 5

2009 - 5

Annual hours of permitted (booked) artificial field use

2005 - 4,086

2006 - 5,135

2007 - 5,550

2008 - 6,675

2009 - 8,006

Capital funds are used to acquire, construct, maintain and renew the large, diverse and, in some cases, ageing system of buildings and open spaces.

Capital Budget Spending

2005 - \$21 million

2006 - \$17 million

2007 - \$22 million

2008 - \$64 million

2009 - \$27 million

Financial contributions from community groups and governments allow the Park Board to do more with less taxpayer funding.

Capital Donations

2005 - \$0.3 million

2006 - \$1.4 million

2007 - \$1 million

2008 - \$1.3 million

2009 - \$0.5 million

Infrastructure Grants

2005 - \$2.2 million

2006 - 1.5 million

2007 - \$0.7 million

2008 - \$0.1 million

2009 - \$0

Planned upgrading of buildings and green space helps the Park Board accommodate the demands of a growing city.

New/Renewed Facilities Opened (# and size)

2005 - 3 (9,192 square metres)

2006 - 3 (4,268 square metres)

2007 - 1 (2,890 square metres)

2008 - 0

2009 - 3 (9,667 square metres)

New/Renewed Parks Opened (# and size)

2005 - 4 (3.15 hectares)

2006 - 3 (8.88 hectares)

2007 - 5 (9.30 hectares)

2008 - 3 (2.75 hectares)

2009 - 2 (0.44 hectares)

New/Renewed Playgrounds out of total

2005 - 6/150

2006 - 11/151

2007 - 8/155

2008 - 5/154

2009 - 1/156

Development of Internal Resources

“Recognize that staff is the greatest asset...”

The Park Board strives to build an organization that supports creativity, continual learning and innovative ideas.

In 2009, a number of initiatives helped to improve the quality of work for employees:

- Management, technical, professional development and other job-related training opportunities were provided for staff. A range of courses were taken by front-line workers and management through the ‘City Learn’ program and in-service sessions.
- A half-day employee orientation was provided for 24 new employees to share the Park Board’s vision and values. The session included history, current issues, and employee roles and responsibilities.

Performance Measures

Health and safety training courses conducted

2006 - 18 (1,350 attendees)

2007 - 19 (422 attendees)

2008 - 20 (895 attendees)

2009 - 25 (988 attendees)

*Reduction in lost time injuries
since 2000 – 37%*

Awards

“Strive for leadership, excellence and innovation in the delivery of parks and recreation services”

The Park Board received two awards in 2009:

- Globe Foundation and World Green Building Council’s Excellence for Green Building Award, recognizing the architects of four 2010 Winter Games facilities (Trout Lake Rink, Killarney Rink, Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre and Southeast False Creek Community Centre) for sustainable venue construction.
- British Columbia Wood First Champions Award, honouring the architects of the Trout Lake Rink and the new Aquatic Centre at Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre for innovative and creative use of wood products.

SUMMARY

The Park Board made significant progress in all areas of its operations, while meeting significant commitments to the City and VANOC to prepare for the 2010 Winter Games. The year’s many accomplishments would not have been possible without the contributions of numerous partners and stakeholders, hard work and enthusiasm of employees and involvement of the public.

In 2010, the Park Board will continue to enrich the lives of Vancouver’s residents through its important role in delivering a very successful Olympics and Paralympics and such exciting projects as: opening of the new Aquatic Centre in Hillcrest Park and the new Southeast False Creek Community Centre; renewal of VanDusen Botanical Garden’s Visitors Centre; upgrades of Grandview, Norquay, Fraserview and Emery Barnes Parks; rehabilitation of the seawall and roads in Stanley and Queen Elizabeth Parks; upgrades to Malkin Bowl performance centre; creation of an urban plaza at the Roundhouse; new synthetic turf fields at Trillium, Jericho and Memorial Park South; building of an accessible playground at Kistilano Beach; development of a new bistro at English Bay; and drafting of a new Strategic Plan.

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