



Date: July 12, 2011

**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: BMO Vancouver Marathon Proposed Route Change**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board approve route adjustments to the BMO Vancouver Marathon as outlined in this report, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.*

## POLICY

Board approval is required for significant changes to existing major events and/or is in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws or guidelines.

## BACKGROUND

The BMO Vancouver Marathon is an annual running race held on the first Sunday of May organized by the Vancouver International Marathon Society. Now in its fortieth year, it is the second largest international marathon event in Canada. In 2011 more than 14,000 people participated in the various running events.

## DISCUSSION

The proposed route changes are requested to highlight the natural beauty of Vancouver including the waterfront in Stanley Park, as well as assist with increasing overall participation. The key adjustment consists of utilizing the seawall in addition to Park Drive, in Stanley Park (See Appendix A). In previous years, only Park Drive has been part of this event, however, the seawall has been approved for other running events without incident.

The event organizers have requested shared use with the public of the seawall from English Bay to Second Beach, exclusive use of the seawall section from Second Beach to Lumberman's Arch, and shared use from Lumberman's Arch to Georgia Street. The exclusive-use portion of the seawall would be closed to the public from approximately 9:00am to 11:15am on the event day. Given the physical conditions of this portion of the seawall and anticipated number of participants, the restriction is considered necessary for the safety of participants. This will also allow first responders full access in the case of an emergency.

The potential impact on other park stakeholders and users has been considered. Earlier this year, meetings were held with representatives of these groups and potential strategies were reviewed to mitigate anticipated challenges. Pending approval of this recommendation, the event organizers will also be required to complete a comprehensive transportation and safety plan, obtain approval from the City FEST committee, and facilitate public meetings with residents and other stakeholders on the event plans.

## **SUMMARY**

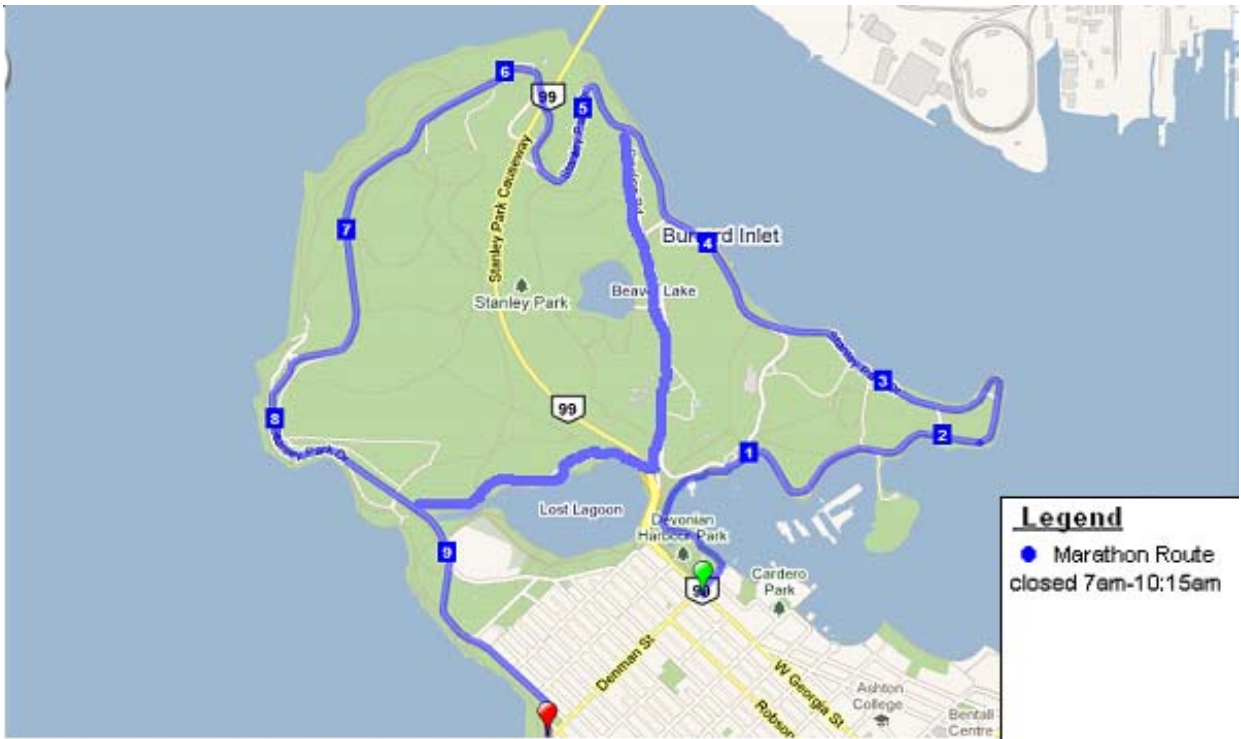
Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised race route as detailed in this report. Staff are confident in the ability of this team to successfully implement the above adjustments. The Vancouver International Marathon Society has a positive record of engaging with the public and City officials in hosting this long-standing and popular sporting event.

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Appendix A

2011 Marathon Route



Proposed Race Route

