



## Park Board General Manager's Report June 5, 2017

*The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Park Board.*

### PARK DEVELOPMENT

#### **Park Board Marine and Bridge Structures Condition Assessment**

A comprehensive report by Associated Engineering, summarizing an analysis of 48 marine and bridge structures, is nearly complete. These structures are regularly inspected with comprehensive reports prepared previously in 1992, 2001, and 2007. This particular report identifies issues and proposes repair strategies including short, medium and long term maintenance needs, replacement timelines, and cost estimates. This report guides annual maintenance programs and identifies priority projects for the upcoming Capital Plan 2019-2022.

Work in 2017 includes the replacement of the Musqueam Park Bridge and two beach swimming rafts. Staff will work with Musqueam Nation on habitat improvements in the vicinity of the Musqueam Park Bridge and we look forward to providing the new rafts for our swimming beaches this summer, as the ocean swimming season warms up.

#### **Sunset Park Upgrade**

The Sunset Park upgrade has a construction budget of \$2M plus contingency and the project is a recipient of a \$500K Federal Grant. The work is tendered and the contract award is scheduled for Board decision in July 2017. Construction is to begin in August 2017 with a substantial completion target of March 2018 to match the Grant timeline. Spaces for future service yard improvements or Centre expansion were considered when finalizing the scope of work for this tender. The tender scope includes:

- Connecting the east and west portions of the park with a reconfigured works yard;
- New accessible paths, fencing and additional green space;
- Benches and a picnic shelter providing covered seating;
- A rebuilt playground and off leash dog area with fencing and amenities; and
- Planting areas, a rain garden, a lost creek feature and natural areas with new trees.

#### **Tatlow Creek Restoration**

Staff worked with Engineering to develop a Request for Quotation (RFQ)/Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide engineering expertise for the stream restoration work to be issued in June 2017. The consultant will work on the technical aspects of the project including sizing and materials for the stream channel. This engineering work is expected to be completed by late summer 2017 with a final concept design presented to the Park Board in early fall 2017.



## PARK PLANNING & RESEARCH

### **VanPlay (Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan)**

The VanPlay public engagement tour kicked off in May with a successful pop-up event in David Lam Park. The consultant team and staff are continuing with overall project information gathering and analysis concurrent with engagement. The project website and a survey are up and running, with 1500 survey responses so far. A speaker series began at Creekhouse Community Centre on May 24, 2017, with Dr. Deborah Cohen speaking on park user data collection and analysis.

Engagement events in May:

- May 13: David Lam Park (in conjunction with 20th anniversary of the roundhouse)
- May 20: East Fraser lands (River District Farmers Market)
- May 27: Gaston Park (Collingwood Days)
- May 28: Dunbar community Centre (Salmonberry Days)

Events will continue throughout June. Communications staff are providing social media support for the events. A detailed memo on the engagement strategy was provided to Commissioners in May, and a staff briefing is planned for July.

### **People Parks & Dogs Strategy (Dogs in Parks Strategy)**

Staff and consultants have developed a draft strategy and the final consultation summary and have reviewed the material with the staff working group and external Advisory Committee. Work is now being done to update the draft to reflect input. The proposed strategy will be presented to the Board in July 2017.

### **VanSplash (Aquatics Strategy)**

Staff and consultants have developed draft recommendations. Staff will be providing a preliminary briefing to Commissioners in June 2017, prior to undertaking round two of public engagement, which was outlined in a memo sent to Commissioners in May.

### **North East False Creek Parks and Open Spaces**

The park design is being refined with input from the Park Design Advisory Group and Design Explorations Stakeholders' Workshop. The draft concept plan will be presented at the upcoming Stage 2 public consultation in conjunction with the draft area plan for Northeast False Creek.

The first public event will be a presentation by James Corner on June 7, 2017 at SFU. There will also be an outdoor "Block Party" open house on Carrall Street (by Andy Livingstone Park) on June 10<sup>th</sup> where the park design will be presented together with the Draft Area Plan, the street design, and the rezoning applications by Concord and Canadian Metropolitan Properties. Communications staff are providing social media support for both events along with a news release highlighting park design concepts which will be issued June 5, 2017. A memo with updated project details was also sent to the Commissioners.



**Marpole Oakridge Community Centre (Summer 2017)**

Park Board is leading the community engagement process to identify service needs and validate the new community centre site. This is preliminary work ahead of the detailed design process. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been drafted for release in June 2017.

**Granddaughter’s Mural**

A mural project led by a senior artist working with young female artists from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, as well as a young Philippian artist, will be installed on the doors of the Nature House at Lost Lagoon this summer. The artwork was informed by visits with Elders from the three Nations and is supported by the Park Board’s Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

**PARK OPERATIONS**

**May 23, 2017 Storm Clean-up**

Park Operation crews dealt with 6 boats that washed up on Vancouver beaches. Crews worked until 1:30am and started again at 3:30am. Below is a detailed chart on the clean-up efforts gathered from Urban Forestry work requests received.

Tree Damage*	North Side	South Side	TOTAL
Broken Branch	17	22	39
Downed Tree	16	13	29
TOTAL	33	35	68

Reported Property Damage**	North Side	South Side	TOTAL
Cars	2	8	10
Houses/Property	4	1	5
Blocked Roads	10	10	20
TOTAL	16	19	35

\* Broken branch requests may actually be downed trees and vice versa.

\*\* Reported damage is gleaned from service requests; not verified for accuracy.

**Park Ranger Activity**

The Park Rangers have received nearly 2000 public enquiries from Jan-May 2017. Calls come in on a wide range of topics including: safety; homelessness; wildlife response; dogs; bylaw infractions; smoking; garbage; washrooms; and facility access. Following is a summary of the total number of calls received each month.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
283	266	320	382	731	1982



### **South False Creek Seawall Horticulture**

The majority of the gardens that were part of the south False Creek seawall improvement project have now been designed and planted by Park Board staff (funded by Engineering). The new beds include 3500 various shrubs and perennials along with some turfing (400 yd<sup>2</sup>).

### **Hinge Park Horticulture Revitalization**

120 shrubs and perennials and 30 trees were planted, some related to the wet land restoration plan. 3000 daffodils were also planted by re-using them from this year's spring show in the main garden in Stanley Park.

### **Seawall Path Signage**

Work is commencing soon to get the cycling, roller-blading, and pedestrian seawall paint redone, which will start near English Bay and go around Stanley Park. Park Operations will be working with Communications to have a Seawall Safety Campaign in June (start of the tourist season) where Rangers will be deployed on the weekend for the purpose of educating users, handing out information and putting up some temporary sandwich board signs that reinforce the safety usage rules.

## **RECREATION**

### **Warming Centre Report**

Staff have met with community services and completed debriefs with front-line staff. A report back is being prepared to present to the Board.

### **CCA/JOA update**

Staff have been responding to clarification questions from Community Centre Associations on items such as insurance, indemnity, and delegation. Our Director of Recreation has offered to attend each CCA to meet directors and/or to answer questions and provide guidance. There are meetings currently scheduled over the next two months with Marpole, Dunbar, Trout Lake, Hillcrest, and Kitsilano.

### **Outdoor Pools**

With close to 7500 swimmers on our first weekend, staff ensured a safe experience in our outdoor pools. We have added some chairs and umbrellas and will continue to identify ways to improve the experience. Cleanliness and customer service solutions are being identified and will be implemented expeditiously.

The "Swim to Survive" program at Second Beach and New Brighton Pools that offer lifesaving sessions for 1600 youth ages 7-16 was launched, supported by a news release on May 30, 2017 and a social campaign to promote the events from June 10-11, 2017. Communications also ran a social campaign with recreation pass give-aways for first-time swimmers at Kits and New Brighton pools on the May long weekend. A major CBC retrospective on [history of outdoor pools in Vancouver](#) featuring long-time lifeguard Glenn Schultz was released on May 20, 2017.



### **Britannia Community Center Redevelopment Plan**

This is a partnership project with Park Board, Britannia Society, Vancouver Public Library, City of Vancouver, and the Vancouver School Board. Consultants and staff from Real Estate & Facilities Management are leading the community engagement with a speaker series and staff/community workshops that will conclude over the summer. Recreation and Park Planning staff are actively representing the interests of the Park Board by ensuring VanSplash and VanPlay (along with other relevant strategies) are front of mind.

Arena operations have now been successfully transitioned from the Vancouver School Board to Park Board Recreation, who are hiring staff with a focus on service excellence.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **City Bird and Bird Week**

A successful event with the Vancouver Public Library Board Chair, Councillor Andrea Reimer and Board Chair Michael Wiebe was held at the Vancouver Public Library on May 18, 2017. Anna's Hummingbird received 8500 online votes and was named the new City Bird. The City Bird campaign received a lot of media attention, with media hits on the following outlets: CBC Early Edition, On the Coast, PostMedia, Global BC, Courier, Metro, Fairchild, Indo-Canadian Voice.

### **Stanley Park & Vancouver Parks Map**

The maps for both Stanley Park and Vancouver Parks have been refreshed to feature more information on accessibility, water fountain locations & bike share stations. The new parks have also been added. The printable maps will be in circulation by mid-June.

### **Park Drinking Fountains - Metro Vancouver Tap App**

Communications staff are working with the Park Board's Geographic Information System (GIS) staff and Metro Vancouver staff to integrate locations of Park Board drinking fountains into [Metro Vancouver's TapMap App](#). The TapMap identifies over 500 places to refill your water bottle for free.

### **Quality and Service Improvement Project**

Communications staff are working with 3-1-1 Operations to refine the intake of Park Board service requests by phone, VanConnect and social media. A social media campaign will be designed to encourage the public to use VanConnect for Park Board service requests. Work on after hours/weekend communications staffing "duty roster" to support quality control manager position.



## COUNCIL DECISIONS

### **Vancouver Waterfront Initiative**

At the Regular Council Meeting on May 30, 2017, City Council approved a motion to establish a waterfront initiative for major natural waterways to support 3 goals:

1. A thriving working waterfront
2. Safe, accessible waterfront recreation
3. Restoring aquatic and riparian ecology and tradition First Nation's food sources.

Waterways will include Burrard Inlet, False Creek, Lost Lagoon, Trout Lake, and the Fraser River and the initiative will incorporate engagement with key stakeholder groups, including the Park Board and First Nations. As a first step, a series of "quick starts" will be established that will focus on making high-use waterways in Trout Lake and False Creek safely accessible for swimmers by summer 2018.