



Park Board General Manager's Report September 18, 2017

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

PARK DEVELOPMENT

East Fraser Lands Park Update

As mentioned in the May 1, 2017, report, East Fraser Lands (EFL) is being developed by Wesgroup and will house up to 12,000 new residents in the coming decades including a 25.2 acre (10.2 ha) of parks within the community which is approximately 20% of the land area. In 2017 to 2019, we expect to design and build 8 acres of parks in the western third of EFL, including Foreshore Park and Neighbourhood Park South.

Park staff has finalized an approach for sea level rise with the City's Engineering Department for the new parks coming on-line and held a final public open house on September 9, 2017. Additional input from First Nations and Park Operations is needed at this stage before concept plans are brought to the Board later this fall for consideration of approval.

New Park for Downtown South at Smithe and Richards Street

Construction drawings are now 75% complete and permit approvals are expected this fall. The new tender target is in the first quarter of 2018. The process was slowed down due to City Design Panel reviews conducted in July and August 2017.

Playgrounds

Creekside Park playground opened in August and the operations team is now working to add security to provide the necessary inspections and presence for safety. Portable washrooms are also to be added. An information memo is being provided about playground operations in Creekside, Andy Livingstone and Hinge Park for Commissioners.

The preferred supplier in British Columbia for nature play equipment went out of business in August which impacted schedules for two projects underway. There are only a few Canadian companies in this line of business. The Clark Park playground construction tender closed over budget and is under review for scope reduction and a possible tender re-issue. The Douglas Park playground project is delayed due to a need to redesign some custom wood features in collaboration with the Douglas Park Community Centre Association to accommodate alternate suppliers.

A number of playgrounds are prioritized for replacement due to their age and condition and require the support of external consultants. A Request for Proposal (RFP) being issued in October will be slightly delayed from the original summer schedule due to competing priorities and it will also include design services to renew the playgrounds at Ash, Beaconsfield, Champlain Heights, Charleson, Collingwood, Jones and Winona Parks. Staff will begin to work with consultants post-award, with public engagements to follow through the early winter of 2018. Construction start is targeted for the late summer of 2018, subject to Board approval of the contract award.



PARK PLANNING & RESEARCH

VanPlay (Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan)

Phase 1 Consultation Summary is now complete and posted on the [project webpage](#).

Phase 2 (urban core focus) will launch on September 20, 2017, with a 5-date seminar series called “VanPlay Smart City Talks” and will cover the following topics:

- Community + Vision - September 20
- Space + Equity - October 3
- Ecology + Nature - October 17
- Celebration + Diversity - November 1
- Resilience + Well-being - November 15

The series is a collaboration between the Park Board, the Urbanarium Society and the University of British Columbia School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and will bring together some of the world’s leading thinkers on public space and urban issues to explore the way we connect, play and explore in cities. The series will consider how Vancouver can enhance its unique and extensive parks and public space as a contemporary city by addressing issues such as equity, changing community needs, climate change and social justice.

Ongoing data collection and mapping have resulted in the first draft of the “Inventory and Analysis” report; this is currently being reviewed by the project team in readiness for consultation throughout phases 2 and 3. The Board received a report reference for information on July 24, 2017, which included an update on preliminary results of Phase 1 of community engagement.

North East False Creek (NEFC) Parks and Open Spaces

The park design team is extending the consultation period to engage in greater depth over the fall on the park concept design with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, along with the urban aboriginal communities. These conversations will focus on ensuring indigenous principles of tradition, culture and visibility of the land are reflected in the refined concept design. The indigenous engagement strategy is led by the indigenous engagement working group, formed by City and Park Board staff.

This extension also gives the opportunity to check in with Chinatown stakeholders who have identified the creation of stronger connections between the park and the historic neighborhood as a key interest.

The team has received extensive feedback and input on the design of NEFC Park via city-wide surveys, open houses and meetings with a variety of stakeholders. The engagement summary is being finalized and will be made available at the next round of public consultation anticipated in mid-November. This round of consultation will include an update on the park design process and engagement to date, together with the final NEFC Area Plan and rezoning applications.



Marpole-Oakridge Community Center Renewal

Staff are finalizing the consultant selection for the needs analysis and feasibility study for the new Marpole-Oakridge Community Center. The project team is anticipated to be in place within two weeks. The project External Advisory Group comprised of the Marpole-Oakridge Community Center Association, the Marpole Coalition, the Business Improvement District and other stakeholders will meet with the successful consultant and staff at a project start-up meeting anticipated to be within three weeks. Staff will continue to provide updates once project milestones have been established.

People Parks & Dogs (Dogs in Parks Strategy)

The draft strategy and consultation summary are complete and staff are currently finalizing the implementation strategy. The Board received a report reference update on July 24, 2017.

VanSplash (Aquatics Strategy)

Staff presented draft recommendations to the Board in a June 2017 report reference update. These recommendations, based on phase 1 consultations, are now being brought to the public to hear if residents believe they are right for them and for Vancouver. Residents and interested stakeholders are encouraged to review and complete the online information and survey. Staff and consultants will also be hosting two open-house events: one at Killarney Community Centre (Sep 27, 4pm-8pm) and one at Hillcrest Community Centre (Sep 30, 10am-2pm). Mandarin and Cantonese translators will be on site. Staff are also arranging a meeting for CCA representatives to provide input on the draft recommendations.

On Water (Non-Motorized Boating Strategy)

With the first phase of the public engagement completed over the summer months, a review and analysis of survey results are underway along with an inventory and analysis of current assets, utilization, and review of the regulatory context. A stakeholder working group is being established to provide input on the development of the strategy and public engagement.

Indigenous/Non-Indigenous Reconciliation Art Program

In light of a report from consultations with cultural leaders and Indigenous artists, staff have assembled a list of resources available for this project. The report outlines principles and lessons from Indigenous advisors on working with Aboriginal people. A publication is being produced for internal distribution. The project specifications were presented to the Stanley Park Cultural Heritage Sub-Committee for review and recommendations.

New Brighton Park Salt Marsh & First Nations Cultural Project

The project is complete except for maintenance and monitoring. The project's opening is scheduled for September 21, with representatives attending from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, Park Board, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, and the local community.

An interpretive kiosk, to be installed in New Brighton Park, has been chosen as the vehicle for educating the public on the presence of Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations on the land. It is anticipated this project will serve as a model for potential use across the city in a variety of contexts. The design is inspired by coastal woven hat forms. Its profile is distinctive enough to constitute a recognizable informational element on the landscape, and adaptable enough to apply creative variations to suit various contexts.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Safety & Security

Since the opening of Crosstown Elementary in March 2017, which is adjacent to the new playground in Andy Livingstone Park, Park Rangers have been tasked with reducing the conflict between the children playing and the unsafe activities that have been prevalent in the park: consumption of drugs and alcohol; overdoses; discarded needles; homelessness; violence; etc. Rangers have been steadfast and diligent in holding this post daily from 7am to 11pm for months. They have been first on scene at nearly weekly overdoses, perform CPR, and hand-off patients to emergency medical responders. There is a real focus on team resiliency, and daily debriefings have been setup to ensure Park Rangers have the opportunity to communicate with Lead Rangers when experiencing trauma. Higher levels of support services have also been identified.

With such a significant commitment to one park, the team has been limited in their ability to respond to public complaints in the remaining parks. There has been a steady increase in public complaints received via 311, VanConnect, email, and social media (see table below).

3-1-1 Ranger Enquiries	2016-10	2016-11	2016-12	2017-01	2017-02	2017-03	2017-04	2017-05	2017-06	2017-07	2017-08
Dogs in Parks Bylaw		1			3	4	4	3	2	4	3
Hérons	1	1							4	21	3
Homeless	136	182	52	75	67	72	72	160	275	375	373
Park Bylaw	7	4	1	10	5	5	6	11	10	9	10
Park Bylaw - Smoking	1		1	2		3	5	5	7	12	5
Parks - Ranger Case	66	124	76	115	106	151	187	304	376	511	427
TOTAL	211	312	130	202	181	235	274	483	674	932	821
Calls per day	6.8	10.4	4.2	6.5	6.5	7.6	9.1	15.6	22.5	30.1	26.5

There are emerging concerns relating to the Creekside Park playground, Trillium Park homelessness, Hinge Park off-leash dogs, and Stanley Park encampments. For the fall season, each day there is one 7am truck and one 3pm truck (with 2 Rangers per truck) operating out of the Stanley Park Ranger station, and one 7am truck and one 3pm truck (also with 2 Rangers) operating out of the Andy Livingstone Ranger station. Field operations are supervised and supported by 4 Lead Rangers who help with higher level cases and Board/Senior Management priorities.

RECREATION

Accessible Beach Mats

The Park Board launched a pilot program in August 2017 with the installation of a Mobi-mat at English Bay, which is a non-slip beach access pathway that allows people with mobility issues to access the beach, just above the tide line. People with walkers, in wheelchairs and



scooters are now able to go to the beach with friends and family and enjoy the total beach experience. The Mobi-mat will be removed in the fall. If successful, more mats will be installed at other beaches in 2018. Initial feedback from the public has been exceptionally positive, with residents sharing moving experiences of being able to see the coastline and be on the sand for the first time in years.

Outdoor Aquatics

Vancouver beaches and outdoor pools saw an unprecedented numbers this summer. The outdoor pools had approximately 260,000 visits, exceeding last year's attendance by 60,000 visits -- an increase of 23%. Lifeguards performed 81 water rescues requiring 26 ambulance transfers to care.

Strathcona Community Development

The Strathcona Community Center (SCC) Needs Assessment is a 4-month long study to determine the current and future needs of Strathcona community members, in order to make appropriate plans for the future of the community center. The study will be completed by November 31, 2017, with the following events scheduled:

- Sep 5 - Pop-Up BBQ at Strathcona Elementary School to celebrate "Back to School"
- Sep 5 to 25 - Online Survey
- Fall 2017 - Community Sharing Event
- Nov 2017 - Public Information Event

Artists in Communities Program - "Kerrisdale Arena Rock"

On August 30, the Kerrisdale Arena foyer was transformed with arena stories as told by the community. Artists Lisa Nielsen and Rene Cherrie fused sound and images to explore the exciting history of Kerrisdale Arena. A number of community members were invited to collaborate with stories, music, art, and more, to create an immersive video and sound installation in the lobby of the rink itself. The community stories are available on the [program's website](#).

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

Prospect Point Café Restaurant Renovation

Over \$3.5M worth of improvements to the café, which were approved in June 2016, have been completed. Specific focus was on upgrading the existing 200 seat restaurant, developing a west coast inspired culinary and retail experience, and creating a new licensed café with adjoining patio. A soft launch occurred on August 5, 2017, with a formal opening planned for the spring of 2018.

Burrard Marina Upgrades

Work is nearly complete with respect to electrical upgrades on land, and the electrical connection to the marina is scheduled for October. New docks will be built, with off-site production set to start at the end of this month. Project completion continues to be set for the end of 2017.



Marina Dock Ladder Enhancements

To enhance safety, 64 fixed ladders on the docks at Heather and Burrard Marinas are being replaced. These ladders provide access and egress from the water on to the docks. Work is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Stanley Park Brewing

Development and Building permits are being presented to City Council for decision at the end of this month. A limited Primary Liquor Licence has been applied for, with a total occupancy of 50 seats inside and 53 on the patio. This is to facilitate the brewery, growler fill station and tasting uses outlined in the November 2016 Board report. There will be no music or entertainment permitted on the outdoor patio. The remaining occupancy of 147 will be designated under the Restaurant Primary, with Accessory Retail, Liquor Licence category. The City's Liquor Licence Department was accepting comments from the public until September 13, 2017. Comments and a recommendation from Liquor Licensing staff will be sent to Council for consideration.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Water Bike Rental Service at Vanier Park

Park Board's new water bike rental service which is operated by BC Water Bikes Ltd. is fully operational at Vanier Park. Public response to this new experience has been very positive.

Marketing Program - VanDusen Garden & Bloedel Conservatory

An expanded marketing program at Bloedel and VanDusen continues to generate positive results. It includes spring and summer promotional campaigns, street banners, signage, marketing brochures, branded merchandise, website improvements, along with increased advertising and social engagement. Throughout July, Bloedel saw a 9% increase in attendance and a 23% increase in revenue, and VanDusen saw an 18% increase in attendance and a 36% increase in revenue. August results are not yet available, but early indicators suggest another strong month.

OTHER

Workplace Safety Practices

The Organizational Safety Team is providing an additional resource until year end to partner with the Park Board to facilitate a review of safety processes at the Evans Yard trade shops. The goal is to identify processes that are working well and to work with supervisors and workers to create better processes where needed. This is a pilot project toward the larger goal of creating a safety culture in our organization. If it is successful, we will look to expand it throughout the Park Board.

Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee

On September 11, 2017, in a motion that was carried unanimously, the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee recommended that Council and Park Board support an annual festival similar to the Canada 150+ celebrations, and other events appropriate to advancing Reconciliation, including but not limited to the Mother's Day Pow-Wow and National Indigenous Peoples' Day.



Council Topics

There are a couple of items of interest to the Park Board that are going to Council this week. An amendment to the East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan By-Law is on Tuesday's Public Hearing agenda. The purpose of this amendment is to allow the development of the Town Square Precinct to proceed concurrently with the Waterfront Precinct. On Wednesday, the Contract Award for the Kitsilano Outdoor Pool Rehabilitation is going before the Finance and Services Standing Committee. The recommendation is also seeking approval to increase the multi-year capital project budget from \$1.5M to \$3.3M.

Board Briefing Memos - Aug 11 to Sep 15, 2017

Date:	Issued By:	Topic
Aug 11/17	Malcolm Bromley - General Manager	Water Taxi/Ferry Service at Harbour Green Dock (Coal Harbour Marina)
Aug 14/17	Malcolm Bromley - General Manager	2026 FIFA World Cup Candidate Host City Process
Aug 14/17	Donnie Rosa - Director, Recreation	Kerrisdale Community Center Society (KCCS) Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Campaign
Aug 18/17	Malcolm Bromley - General Manager	Prospect Point Café Opening
Aug 31/17	Donnie Rosa - Director, Recreation	Outdoor Aquatic Services - End of 2017 Season Update
Sep 1/17	Donnie Rosa - Director, Recreation	CCA JOA Update - Kerrisdale and Killarney CCA JOA Campaign
Sep 12/17	Tiina Mack - Manager, Park Development	Park Washroom and Change Room Upgrades and Cleanliness Update
Sep 14/17	Tiina Mack - Manager, Park Development	Lost Lagoon Fountain - Renovation Update
Sep 15/17	Tiina Mack - Manager, Park Development	2017 Park Washrooms Update