



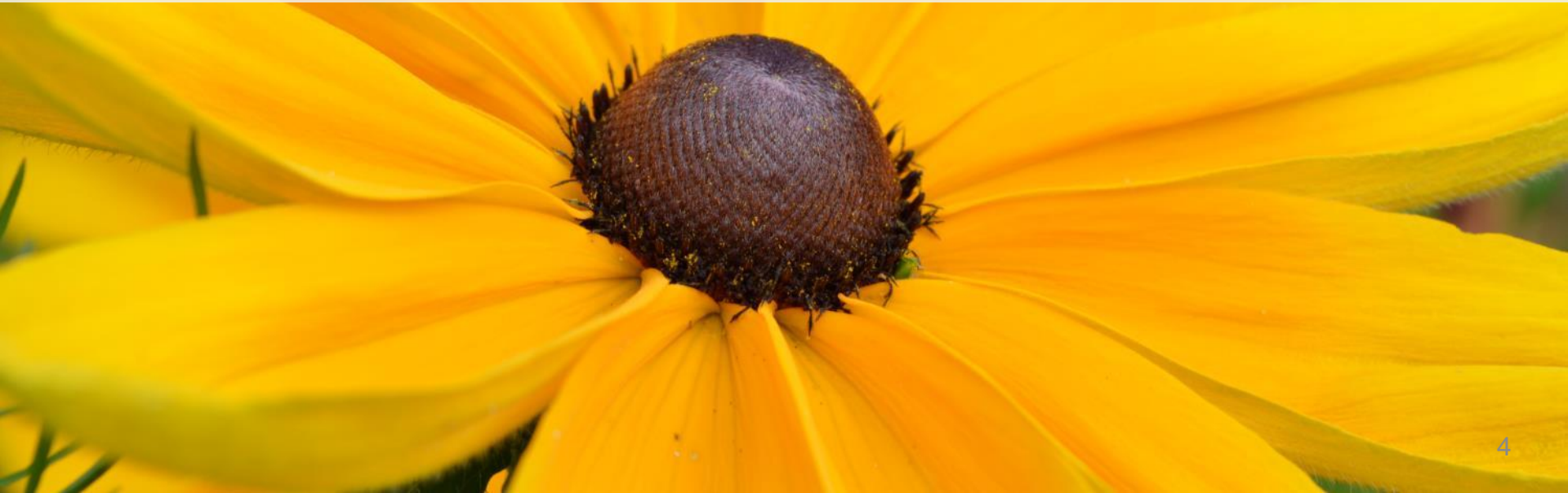
# Horticultural Excellence in Vancouver Parks Update

Park Board Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 4, 2018



# Purpose of Presentation

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to the Board on the outstanding work done by the Park Board horticultural team and to highlight some of Vancouver's most beloved parks and greenspaces and how they incorporate Park Board strategies.





# The Importance of our Horticultural Excellence



- Green space has proven to increase social interaction, encourage physical exercise and improve mental health.
- 93% of overnight visitors agree that Vancouver is a destination with great natural beauty.



- Maintain over 1,020,217 square meters of annuals, perennials, roses, naturalized areas, shrubs, water features, and vegetable gardens;
- 32 gardeners;
- Additional 12 apprentices, 3 entered into the program each year;
- Pesticide free, except for extenuating circumstances such as the Japanese Beetle.







# Sunset Nursery – Where it Starts







- Every year, over 428,000 individual annuals are grown for spring and summer flowerbed displays;
- Recently purchased flat filler and seeding machines that will stream line production;
- A large diverse selection of plants are grown year round.





- Approximately 500 large tropical trees and shrubs are stored over the winter;
- 160 summer hanging baskets and over 2000 Poinsettias are produced each year;
- Nursery receives heating from the Sunset Ice Rink, supporting the Greenest City Action Plan.





# Queen Elizabeth Park





# Queen Elizabeth Park - Background



- The highest point in Vancouver with the best views;
- Originally a rock quarry, was converted into a top show garden in the 1930s;
- 52 hectare park;
- Built atop Little Mountain Reservoir, Vancouver's principal drinking water reservoir.



# Queen Elizabeth Park - Gardens



- Native and exotic tree collection established since 1949;
- Walking paths, water features & public art;
- Canada's first civic arboretum with initial trees planted in 1949.





- Lawn bowling green, pitch and putt course, disc golf, tennis, off-leash dog park;
- Popular destination for weddings, special events, tourism & fine dining;
- Offers many beautiful photo opportunities, including amazing city views.





# Bloedel Conservatory



# The Bloedel Conservatory – Tropical Garden

- 2019 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bloedel Conservatory;
- Hundreds of tropical plants from around the world on display;
- Flowerbeds are renewed weekly;
- A popular venue for weddings, special events & photography





# The Bloedel Conservatory: Exotic Birds



Over 120 free flying birds and a variety large species bring in local and international bird enthusiasts.



# VanDusen Botanical Garden







- Originally a golf course, this 22 hectares botanical garden oasis was opened in 1975;
- A skilled horticultural team tend over 7,500 plant species and varieties from around the world.





# VanDusen Botanical Garden – Local Food Summer Programs

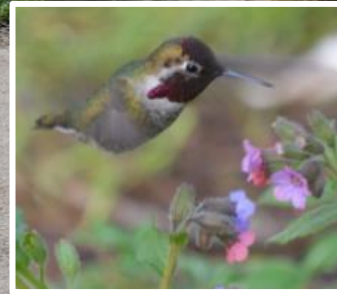
- Heirloom vegetable garden provides educational opportunities for summer day camps - children learn about gardening and help harvesting;
- Weekly harvest donated to the Vancouver Food Bank;
- Aligns with the Park Board's Local Food Action Plan.





# VanDusen Botanical Garden – Birds & Biodiversity

- The Backyard Bird Garden offers an enhanced habitat for resident and migratory birds; more than 85 bird species have been recorded;
- Supports the Vancouver Bird Strategy and Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy.






# Stanley Park





# Stanley Park – A Culturally Modified Natural Landscape



Stanley Park has a rich legacy of cultural modification by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The future vision for Stanley Park's horticultural practices aim to raise awareness of this cultural presence and the methods for cultivating the natural environment sustainably.



# Stanley Park – Horticultural Diversity



While Stanley Park is comprised of mostly native plantings, unique pocket display gardens showcase plant specimens from around the world.





# Stanley Park – Display Gardens

Display gardens in Stanley Park include the Main Garden, the Rose Garden, the Pavilion Garden and the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden.





# Stanley Park – Display Gardens

The gardeners plant 228,000 annuals and bulbs as well as many tropical shrubs and trees every year.







# Neighbourhood Parks



# Neighbourhood Parks

- There are over 200 neighbourhood parks in Vancouver maintained by trades gardeners and a variety of other staff;
- Some provide natural habitats for birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators;





# Neighbourhood Parks

These parks can have a variety of features, including flowerbeds, sports and passive fields, water parks, water features, playgrounds, running tracks and naturalized areas.





# Golf Courses





# Golf Courses: Fraserview, Langara, & McCleery



All of our golf courses are Audubon certified. This co-operative sanctuary program helps our golf course staff protect the environment.





# Golf Courses: Local Food Action Plan

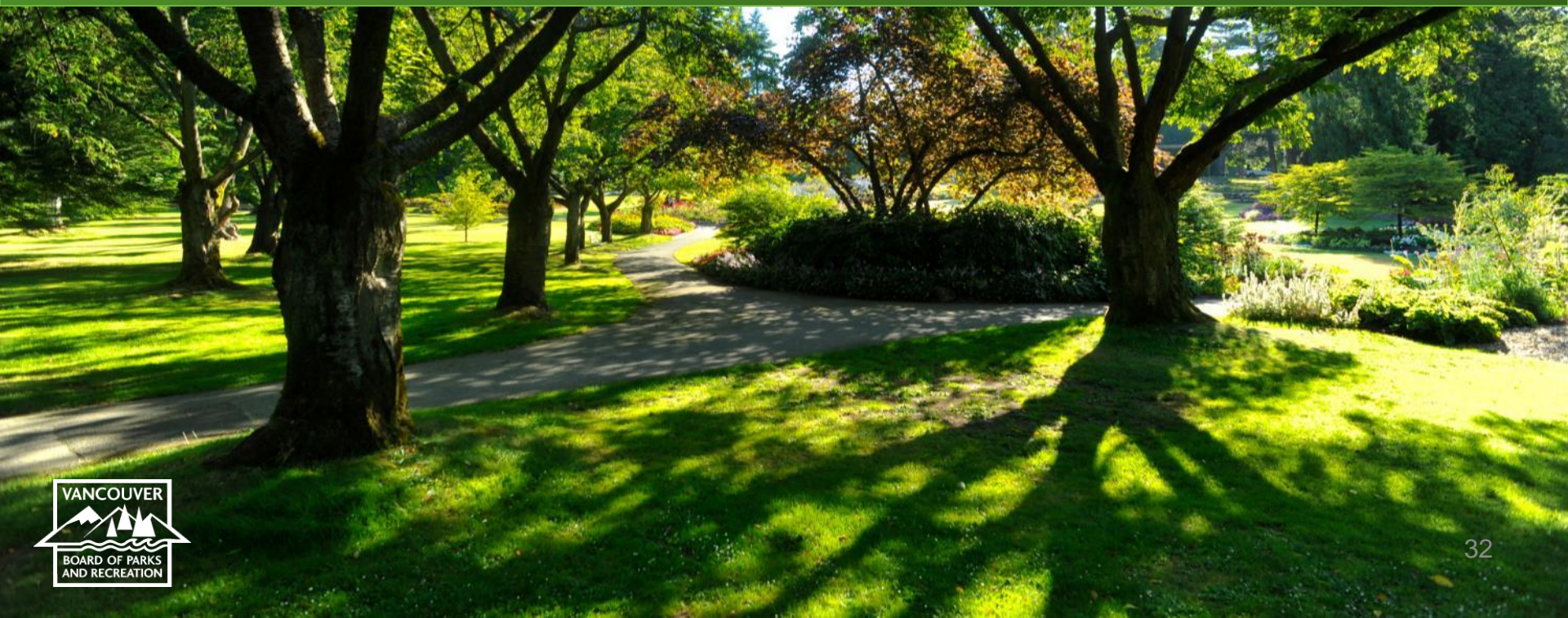


All 3 golf courses have vegetable gardens growing food for their clubhouses and concession stand chefs.





# Other Initiatives





## Other Initiatives: Daffodils at English Bay

30,000 Daffodil bulbs were recently planted in English Bay to bring spring colour to the area.





## Other Initiatives: Bee Keeping

- Honey bee hives have been installed at Sunset Nursery and Queen Elizabeth Park; honey produced is sold locally;
- Initiative supports the Urban Agriculture Policy & Local Food Action Plan.





# Other Initiatives: Flowering Trees



- There are over 51,000 flowering trees planted on Vancouver's streets and parks, as part of Vancouver's Urban Forest;
- We continue to plant ornamental cherries and other flowering trees in parks and streets; examples would include Cherries, Plums, Magnolias, Dogwoods and Snowbells.





- Staff continue their dedication to Vancouver Parks by providing excellent horticultural services;
- Support important initiatives such as the Local Food Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, and Urban Forest Strategy.





Questions or Comments?