



## **Park Board General Manager's Report September 11, 2023**

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

### **Sport Field Improvement Work**

The newly formed Sports Field Upgrade Team have completed a number of significant field renovations projects. Staff have highlighted recent upgrades at Douglas Park, Tisdall Park, and Hillcrest Park Little League Baseball Diamond

At Douglas Park, the northwest and southwest ball diamonds had complete infield replacements, including removing, re-grading and resurfacing the infields. There was also extensive turf grass field renovations, along with the removal of invasive weed species.

Tisdall Park was closed to the public in Summer of 2023 due to safety concerns stemming from the uneven playing surface. The Sport Field Upgrade Team completed a full facility renovation shortly after the closure, which included the removal of the entire turf grass field, adding new soil mix, laser levelling and regrading the field surface, and re-seeding. The irrigation system was also completely replaced. Staff are excited to re-introduce this newly renovated and upgraded facility to the community in Spring 2024 once the newly seeded grass is properly established.

The Hillcrest Enclosed Little League Baseball Diamond recently had a full facility renovation. The infield and outfield irrigation systems were completely replaced with more efficient components and a solar powered electrical control system. The infield base paths, pitchers mound, and turf grass surfaces also received significant upgrades. Staff are confident these upgrades, combined with the renewed focus on Sports Field quality will transform this facility into the highest quality little league baseball facility for decades to come.

Dozens of other Sports Field upgrades and renovations have been completed in the first year of the renewed focus on Sports Field Safety, playability, quality and consistency. The Sport Field Upgrade Team look forward to regularly updating the board on completed work and prioritized future projects.

### **Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey School Track & Field Upgrades**

Following the approval of the [Track and Field Strategy](#), staff have been working with the Vancouver School Board to upgrade the existing track and field facility at Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey Secondary School, which was identified in strategy as priority for renewal. The existing facility is one of Vancouver's most well-utilized track and field amenities and hosts secondary school league meets and City championship events. The venue attracts users from across the City who utilize the amenities for training and recreational use.

A competitive procurement process is currently underway to obtain qualified contractors that would perform the construction works for the facility upgrades at the best value to the City. The project includes replacement of the existing track surface with low-impact rubberized surfacing, upgraded jumping and throwing amenities including a new high jump area and discus cage, enhanced seating and storage opportunities and improved lighting and parking infrastructure. Washroom renovations are also planned at the adjacent Kerrisdale Arena as a separate, but related project to support the facility and improve accessibility. These upgrades will improve recreational and training opportunities for facility users, better serve the city's population growth and help promote participation in physical activity.

Staff anticipate updating the board on contract award in October, 2023.



### Stanley Park Forest Management

Throughout the summer, staff have reduced hazards and wildfire risk throughout Stanley Park. 212 hazardous trees have been removed since June 2023, and to offset extreme fire risk, water cannons and flusher trucks have been used to wet forest areas to reduce ignition likelihood. Ranger patrols were also increased to educate park patrons on wildfire risk and to monitor hazards.

Planting plans are being developed for 2023-2024 reforestation in areas where tree removals took place, and staff expect to report back to the Board in October 2023 to outline the work plan and timelines.

### Drone Activation at Creekside Park

Vancouver's first ever live drone show will be taking place on September 15 at Creekside Park. The event is related to the Open Air Gala at Science World and Park Board staff are working closely with other partners and agencies to support this event. Creekside Park was identified as the safest area for drone launching and landings, and portions of the park will be fenced off from 5:00PM to 11:00PM on September 15 to allow for a secured area for the drone launch.

### Council Business (related to or impacting parks & recreation):

Council to receive a report on September 13, 2023 titled "[Contract Award for Architectural Consulting for Redevelopment of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre](#)", which would authorize City staff to enter into a contract for architectural consulting for the redevelopment of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

Council will also be receiving a report on September 13, 2023 titled "[Approach to Identifying Opportunities for Increased Revenues for the 2024 Budget](#)" for information on an update of the City's assumptions with respect to generation of non-tax revenues in the 2023 Budget. These assumptions will inform the 2023 Draft Budget and include options to incorporate short-term revenue opportunities from the Park Board [Think Big Strategy](#).

### Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 17 to September 11, 2023

Date	Topic
July 20	<a href="#">Council Motion 'Making It Easier to Host Outdoor Festivals and Events in Vancouver' Update</a>
July 31	<a href="#">South Vancouver, Marpole Neighborhoods &amp; Memorial South Park Pond - Infrastructure Improvements</a>
August 2	<a href="#">Sunset Community Outdoor Amenities - Public Engagement Update</a>
August 10	<a href="#">People, Parks and Dogs Strategy (2017) – Time of Use Restrictions</a>
August 31	<a href="#">Q2 2023 Financial Update</a>
September 7	<a href="#">Facility Projects Update – Contract Award Decisions</a>