



Park Board General Manager's Report October 30, 2023

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

Vanier Park Boat Launch Repairs

Staff are excited to announce that the repairs to the Vanier Park Boat Launch now been completed.

From April 2021 to October 2021, the west float of the Vanier Park Boat Launch was partially closed due to two derelict vessels which damaged the end of the float. The west float and ramp were completely closed in November 2021 due to 2021 and 2022 storm events. The east float had minor damage due to the 2022 storm event and remained open. The west and east floats required complex repairs by coastal engineers and marine contractors. These repairs were limited by seasonal low tide windows and environmental best practices. The west float and ramp were re-opened on October 23, following repairs over the last 4 months.

The west float connections were strengthened to allow for more resiliency during local tide fluctuations and extreme coastal storm events. The west float is used for launching small craft vessels. The east float allows the public to launch non-motorized vessels such as kayaks and canoes. Park Board engineers are closely monitoring the condition of these in-ocean assets in light of increasing frequency and intensity of storm events.

Burrard Slopes Park Pop-up Event

Burrard Slopes Park is a new, one-hectare neighbourhood park near the border of the Kitsilano and Fairview neighborhoods. The project area currently includes 6th and Fir Park, 5th and Pine Pop-up Park, a portion of the Arbutus Greenway, and a series of buildings that will be removed. The new park will provide much needed public green space and recreational amenities in a densifying area. The Board approved the building removal contract award on October 16, 2023 and site mobilization is anticipated to commence in late 2023 to early 2024.

The project is now in the concept plan phase and recently concluded the first round of public engagement. In addition to a public survey posted on the City's Shape Your City platform, staff also hosted an in-person pop up event on Saturday, October 7. The 3-hour on-site event attracted over 100 participants. The intent of this round of engagement was to confirm what people value most about the space today and what they envision for the future. Engagement results will be summarized into a needs assessment report to guide the prioritization for future park amenities and programs in the preliminary concept plan. While staff are waiting for the formal engagement summary report, early indication shows strong support for green space with a combination of open, active spaces and intimate, relaxing spaces in the future park plan.

The preliminary concept plan will be brought to the public for feedback in Spring 2024 and is targeted for Board decision in late 2024 to early 2025.

Jericho Park Natural Area Reclamation

Recently, Park Board staff completed the Natural Area Reclamation project at Jericho Park. Urban Forestry staff removed downed trees, and Horticulture staff led the treatment and removal of invasive species. The project included seeding of reclaimed areas with natural turf/meadow seed and tree planting. This work involved extensive focus and effort on the removal of invasive species, along with regular and frequent efforts to reclaim and transform this area into a highly functional and accessible space for the public.



Seaforth Peace Park & Burrard Bridge – Wildflower Meadow Planting

Staff recently completed a wildflower meadow planting project at the intersection of Seaforth Peace Park and the Burrard Bridge. This highlight visible and well used intersection with weaving bike routes, walking paths and high traffic was improved with aesthetic plantings to include pollinator habitat. Enhancement of the meadows has been a focus of operations staff and the teams with be transitioning and improving these highly beneficial meadows and pollinator segments across the City network.

McCleery Golf Course Pond Dredging

Recently staff completed the dredging of ponds at McCleery Golf Course. The drainage of the 15 ponds at McCleery is crucial to maintain proper water flow within the golf course area and towards the Fraser River. The dredging process is essential for the effective functioning of the golf course water system. Moreover, this effort also offers additional advantages by creating open water spaces that benefit wildlife, including swallows and other bird species.

Sunset Nursery and Bloedel Conservatory

Staff are pleased to announce that at this stage of the season, the poinsettia crop is at its best condition ever. Dedicated staff take immense pride in developing top-notch plant material for various park system destinations like VanDusen and golf properties. The Nursery is successfully meeting its production targets for fall bedding, ensuring an adequate supply across the Park Board network.

Excitingly, Uncle Fester the Corpse Flower is currently in leaf at Bloedel Conservatory, and staff anticipate it will remain in leaf for the upcoming year. With over 100 birds and 500 exotic plants, there are regular updates on this iconic venue on the [Bloedel Conservatory Instagram page](#) for those interested.

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

Council to receive a report on October 31 titled “[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall Intake](#)”, which would approve 18 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants that support non-profit community sport organizations within the City.

Council to also put forward a motion on November 1 titled “[Advancing Britannia Renewal](#)”, which would affirm Council commitment to advancing Britannia Renewal planning, and recognize the need to prioritize available funding towards maintenance and repair needs at Britannia.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: October 16 to October 30

Date	Topic
October 20	Stanley Park Hemlock Looper Update
October 27	Sponsorship and Naming Rights - Update