



## Park Board General Manager's Report September 17, 2018

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

### PARK DEVELOPMENT

#### **Stanley Park – Seawall Phase 1 Restoration Complete**

The first phase of the two phase [seawall rehabilitation project](#) that started in March was completed in early September. The project included filling holes, replacing stone, stabilizing foundations, and installing material to protect against water erosion at priority locations between Brockton Point and Sunset Beach for this 101 year old asset. The second phase of work will be tendered late this fall and constructed during favorable tide windows starting spring 2019.

#### **Renfrew Ravine and Community Park Master Plan Implementation**

This [park renovation project](#) is expected to be 95% complete by the end of September 2018. The Renfrew Community Park work includes new and upgraded walking trails with improved access & wayfinding, a new creek crossing, a new 0.4 acre dog park, and native plantings. The work at Renfrew Ravine Park includes a renewed park edge along Renfrew Street that includes a vehicle barrier, blackberry removal, native planting, and opportunities for community and art planning initiatives. Access to a naturalized portion of Still Creek has been enhanced with new staircases from the corner of Renfrew Street and the Boyd Diversion and a new 65m long elevated timber boardwalk along the waterway.

### PARK PLANNING

#### **Urban Forest Tree Sale**

This year's [Fall Tree Sale](#) is now underway. As part of the strategy to help grow the urban forest canopy, Vancouver residents pre-purchase online up to 3 trees per household for \$10 each. About 1500 trees are available, including some patio planter options and a wide range of edible varieties such as cherry, plum, apple, fig and hazelnut. Trees can be picked-up at Hillcrest Centre on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and any remaining trees will be available for cash sale later that afternoon.

#### **Oakridge Centre Redevelopment**

Staff are working with City of Vancouver Planning staff to review the development permit applications for buildings 3 and 4, which include portions of the new [Oakridge Centre](#) park. Subsequent development applications will be submitted in phases, with portions of the park included in each. A public open-house was held on September 12<sup>th</sup> and the application will be reviewed by the Development Permit Board on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff have finalized the maintenance and transfer agreement for turnover of the park, which will be considered by Council for enactment of the Oakridge site rezoning by-laws.



## PARK OPERATIONS

### **Japanese Beetle Eradication**

In response to the discovery of the invasive Japanese Beetle in the False Creek area earlier this year, the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) served the City and the Park Board with an initial Notice to Treat on May 4, 2018. This notice compelled the Park Board to treat roughly 19 hectares of City and Park land by June 30. Since this initial treatment, ongoing monitoring and trapping has resulted in additional areas requiring treatment. Due to ground conditions being too dry, the treatment deadline has been extended to September 30.

### **Stanley Park Fire Watch**

Due to this summer's extreme hot weather and fire restriction conditions, a special mobile unit was put in place to monitor fire risks in Stanley Park. The mobile unit operated daily for 38 days to protect the park during this high risk period.

### **Park Security and Cleanliness**

The significant increase of tents, garbage, and problematic behavior in parks over the summer, particularly in Downtown Eastside areas, has resulted in ongoing challenges with park security and cleanliness. A number of actions are underway in response, including the deployment of additional staff to help address cleanliness concerns in some of the most challenging areas. As well, a cross-jurisdictional meeting of senior leaders is scheduled for next week to discuss a more coordinated long-term approach, and we are in the midst of reviewing the Park Ranger service model to ensure we have the best structure, staffing and resources in order to meet the changing needs of the park system.

## RECREATION SERVICES

### **Youth Services – Camp Sasamat**

The Park Board's Community Youth Workers hosted the second annual city-wide camping trip to Camp Sasamat in late August. By pooling resources and seeking additional funding from the Len Cederholm Memorial Trust Fund and Community Centre Associations (CCA), financial barriers were minimized so that vulnerable young people from across the city were able to attend this outdoor, unplugged, learning experience. Over 80 youth participated in the variety of activities offered, which included team-building, swimming, kayaking, archery, high/low ropes and hiking.

### **Youth Services In-Service Training**

On September 8, 2018, over 60 people took part in a jam-packed day of training on a range of topics that included "End Gang Life", "Trauma Informed Care", "Autism Awareness", "Child Protection", "Healthy Boundaries" and "Youth Engagement". The event was organized by the Park Board Community Youth Workers and attended by recreation staff and CCA Board Members.

### **Fitness Services Grant**

The Park Board has received a 2018 REACH Grant from the Michael Smith Foundation. The goal of this grant is for "adapting community centres to enhance exercise in spinal cord injury" to further support the implementation of integrated, adaptive fitness programs.



### **Park Board Pride**

The Park Board was involved in a number of Pride events over the summer, including a Two-Spirit Pride celebration, a Youth Pride swim, and the Pride Parade & Festival.

The Two-Spirit Pride celebration held on July 25 at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre was hosted by the LGBTQ2+ Advisory Committee with assistance from our Access and Inclusion team. This first time event had 130 attendees, with representation from the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Laurie McDonald, a founder of the Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Two-Spirit Society, was honoured with a blanketing ceremony in recognition of their decades of work in Vancouver. Over 60 community member contacts were made at the event and an ongoing engagement strategy is being developed.

The Park Board held its first Youth LGBTQ2+ Pride swim at Templeton Pool in August. Twenty youth and a few parents participated in this free event, where they were provided an opportunity to meet each other and ask questions about community resources.

The Park Board participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade with a diversity themed float, and staff hosted a community engagement tent at the festival in Sunset. The “My pronoun is” buttons proved to be very popular, sparking interest from some Lower Mainland and BC Interior municipalities and pride organizations.

### **Artists in Communities Project - All the Trees**

One of the Park Board’s [community artist residencies](#) is receiving enthusiastic media and public attention. Holly Schmidt’s “All the Trees” interactive art work, which is one element of her year-long “[Beat a Path](#)” project, encourages visitors to engage in unique and unexpected ways with the trees in and around Jericho Park in West Point Grey. Thirty trees are tagged with an ID number, an email address, and an invitation to send a personal message to the tree. With support from historian John Atkin, horticulturalist Egan Davis, poet Rahat Kurd, and Indigenous herbalist Lori Snyder, Holly responds on behalf of the trees and posts [responses](#) online.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **SKOOKUM Festival**

Stanley Park hosted the first ever SKOOKUM Festival on September 7, 8 & 9. The festival was a celebration of contemporary music, food and art, and showcased the culture of our three host nations – the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. The SKOOKUM Festival was very well received with over 50,000 attendees passing through the gates over the three event days. Festival goers were generally well-behaved and the Brockton Point event site was in surprisingly good condition given the wet weather. A more detailed report back will be provided.

### **Bird Festival**

From August 19 to 26, Vancouver hosted both the inaugural [Vancouver International Bird Festival](#), with workshops, talks, exhibitions, and lectures, and the [27<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress](#), one of the most prestigious meetings for bird scientists. The Bird Festival is a partnership of non-profits, artists, the City of Vancouver and Park Board. On August 20, bird enthusiasts and scientists from around BC and across Canada opened the festival with Birds on Parade. Birds on stilts, bird puppets, bird flags, and bird choruses paraded along the Coal Harbour seawall to represent and celebrate local and migratory birds from our communities.



**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**Motion on Notice: Ensuring Drinking Water in Vancouver Public Facilities is Lead-Free**

On September 18, Council will consider a [motion](#) to direct staff to review testing results for drinking water lead levels in City and Park Board facilities performed to date and to develop a comprehensive plan to regularly monitor drinking water lead levels in these facilities.

**Enactment Report: 650 West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Oakridge Centre)**

On September 19, Council will be receiving a [report](#) seeking approval for a revised form of development for the Oakridge Centre redevelopment that will still achieve the urban design objects and remain consistent with enactment conditions for the CD-1 by-law prescribed by Council in March 2014. Recommendations that relate to delivery of the new 9-acre park include conveying all 9 acres as air space parcel (vs. 3 acres as Statutory Right-of-Way), with transfer by approximately July 2027, and clarifying that park access elevators will be available outside mall hours.

**Board Briefing Memos – Jul 24 to Sep 17, 2018**

Date:	Issued By:	Topic
Aug 2	Dave Hutch – Acting Director, Park Planning and Development	Sea Level Rise Planning Update
Aug 3	Dave Hutch – Acting Director, Park Planning and Development	BC Hydro Proposal for Lord Roberts Annex and Nelson Park Phase 2
Aug 21	Shauna Wilton – Deputy General Manager	Park Stewards Pilot Program
Sep 10	Shauna Wilton – Deputy General Manager	Andy Livingstone Park Service Overview