



NOTICE of MOTION

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on July 8, 2019

Accelerating Sewer Separation & Overflow Mitigation to Improve Water Quality

MOVER: Commissioner Coupar

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
2. As per the Vancouver Charter, the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over parkland in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within parks, including jurisdiction over the city's public swimming beaches and responsibility for safe swimming;
3. Starting in the 1920s, Park Board Commissioners made it a priority to incrementally acquire beachfront property that was earlier snapped-up for hotel and private residential development, and by the mid-1980s the Board had acquired full waterfront access along English Bay from the Burrard Bridge to Stanley Park and all the waterfront from Spanish Banks to Jericho Beach;
4. On June 10, 2019, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved a Non-motorized Watercraft Recreation Strategy to encourage more people to explore non-motorized water sports, including canoeing, kite surfing, rowing, dragon boating, outriggering, windsurfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and small craft sailing, as well as to increase access to the water from the shoreline;
5. On June 29, 2019, Sunset Beach was closed to swimming due to high E.coli levels on the recommendation of Vancouver Coastal Health;
6. The City of Vancouver frequently discharges untreated waste into the city's waterways through combined sewer overflow outlets, including into False Creek which has five overflow outlets, many of which are visible during low tides;
7. According to recent reports, almost 674,000 cubic metres of raw sewage and runoff drained into False Creek at just one of these combined sewer overflow points in 2017;
8. The timeline for completion of the City's combined sewer separation plan, to stop untreated sewage overflows entering the city's waterways, is currently based on the Provincial government's environmental goal to replace all combined sewer systems with separated sewer systems by 2050;
9. The City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan embodies the City's aspirations to be on the leading edge of urban sustainability through a set of measurable and attainable targets that place Vancouver on a path to becoming the greenest city in the world;



10. Metro Vancouver's regional population growth estimates to the year 2050, based on a base population of 2,570,000 in 2016, is anticipated to increase by about 1 million to 3,600,000 by the year 2050, with a corresponding increase in the population of the City of Vancouver and similarly increased discharges of raw sewage into the city's waterways; and
11. Vancouver's waterfront is a treasured asset and a key part of our city's identity locally and internationally – from the seawall to the city's beautiful beaches.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to accelerate its timeline for combined sewer separation and set a goal to substantially improve water quality outcomes related to combined sewer overflows within 10 years – by the year 2029 – in order to address the impacts of untreated sewage overflows entering the city's waterways;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation encourage the City of Vancouver to write to all relevant levels of government, including municipal, regional, provincial, and federal, urging these government bodies to support an accelerated plan for combined sewer separation, overflow mitigation, and substantially improved water quality outcomes related to combined sewer overflows in the City of Vancouver by 2029 and to seek funding opportunities and partnerships to achieve this objective; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally request that the City of Vancouver – in the interest of public safety and awareness – publicly identify the locations of all sewer outflows into False Creek and other Vancouver waterways that impact Vancouver parks and beaches, and that the City be requested to post public signage to indicate these outflow locations.