



# SCOTIABANK VANCOUVER HALF MARATHON & 5K

Special Event

Park Board Committee Meeting  
October 22, 2019



## *Purpose/Objective*

- Present and review Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K event
- Review organizer's request to modify 5K run route
- Seek Board approval for this event application



# *Board Authority & Previous Decisions*

- Board authority:
  - Exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use (Vancouver Charter)
  - Board approval required for new events and/or events in variance of by-laws (Special Event Guidelines)
- Previous decisions:
  - May 2019 – Moratorium approved on new commercial events & initiatives
  - Scotiabank initiative is an existing not-for-profit event; therefore, not impacted by this decision





## ***Background***

### ***Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K***

- Introduced in 1999; events held jointly in June of each year
- Attract approximately 6,700 participants annually
- Half Marathon is a cross jurisdictional initiative (UBC, City of Vancouver and Stanley Park)
- 5K takes place largely within Stanley Park and English Bay
- Routes have been refined incrementally year over year

# Background

## Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K

- Some issues persist with 5K route:
  - Congestion at pinch points that are too narrow for large groups of runners to navigate safely
  - Potential conflicts with cyclists
  - Gravel pathways that limit accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers
  - Risk of delayed medical and emergency response due to congestion





## ***Background***

### *Canada Running Series (CRS)*

- Not-for-profit company; organizes premier running events in Canada
- CRS mission:
  - Foster sustainable communities through healthy lifestyles
  - Build communities through running
- Since inception:
  - Earned international recognition for operations/innovation
  - Grown participation to 65,000+ runners annually
  - Raised over \$6M for 300+ charities



## Proposal

- Seeking approval to modify 5K route and race time; specifically:
  - Proposing to move large portion of 5K route onto roadways in Stanley Park
  - Impacted roadways will need to be closed to vehicular traffic for short period of time early in the morning
  - Road closures supported by traffic management plan
  - 5K event would be re-timed to take place earlier in the day (6:30 to 9:30am) to minimize impacts to park stakeholders and users

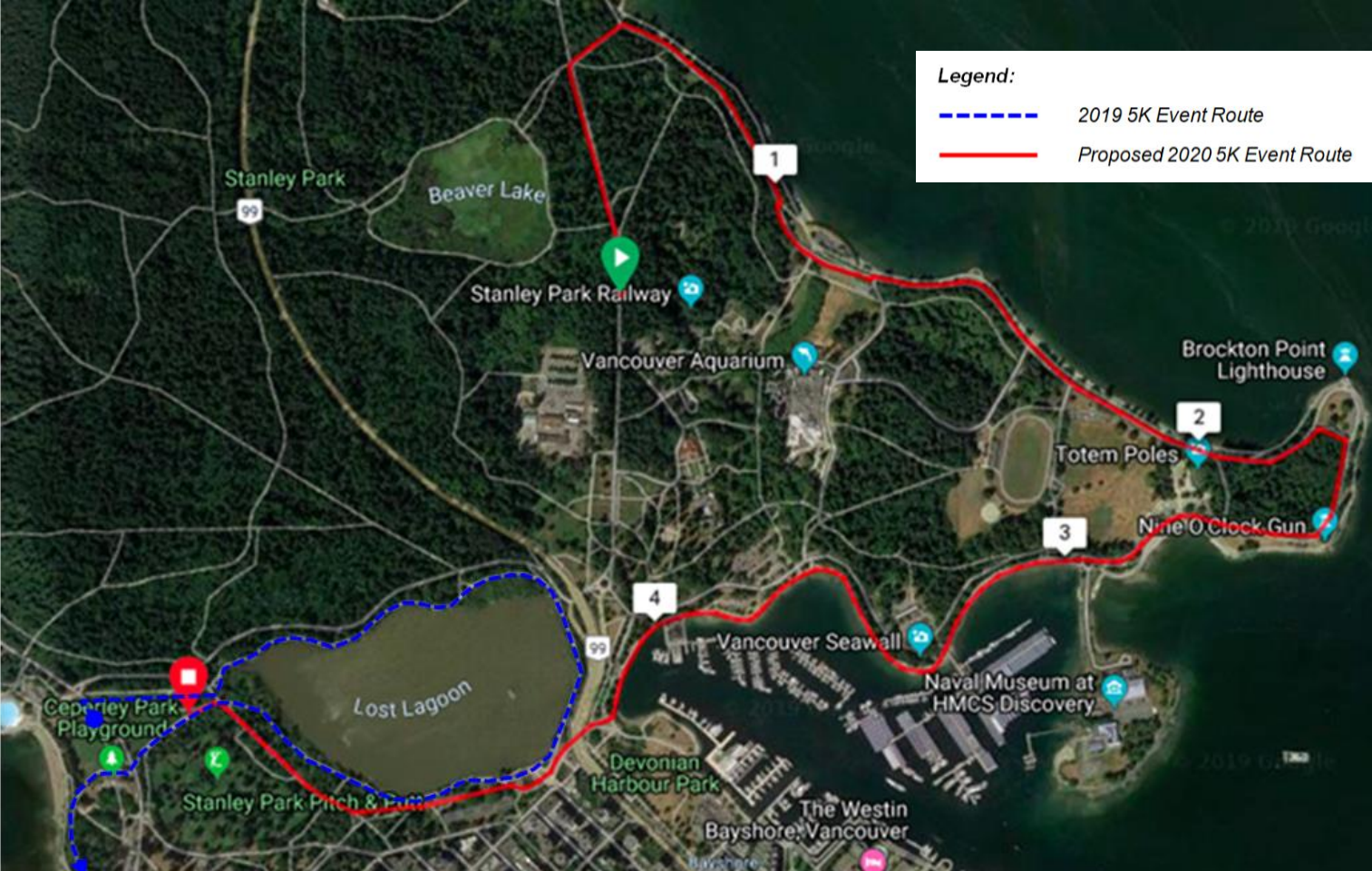
# Proposal

- If approved, requested changes expected to:
  - Improve runner safety by providing wider course with fewer pinch points
  - Improve accessibility for participants with disabilities by having fully paved and accessible course
  - Improve access for medical and emergency response
  - Accommodate potential future growth opportunities (participation and fundraising)





# Proposed New Route for 5K Event



# Key Considerations

- Proposal has been reviewed and conditionally approved by:
  - Stanley Park stakeholders
  - Key FEST Committee members (VPD, COV traffic management branch, and VPB and COV special event departments)
- Subject to Board approval, staff will work with organizer and FEST Committee to develop required operational plans





## Summary

- Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K is a popular and recurring family-friendly event
- Promotes healthy living and inclusivity; adds vibrancy to city
- Request builds incrementally on a successful event; will provide a safer and more inclusive route
- Staff have carefully considered this application; confident event can be executed successfully and as intended



## ***Recommendation***

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from the Canada Running Series, organizers of the Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K event, to modify its 5K route and race time in Stanley Park to improve safety and accessibility, on Sunday, June 28, 2020, between 6:30am and 9:30am, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

## *Recommendation*



THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from the Canada Running Series, organizers of the Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K event, to modify its 5K route and race time in Stanley Park to improve safety and accessibility, on Sunday, June 28, 2020, between 6:30am and 9:30am, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

