



May 22, 2020

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Reconciliation Update

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive for information an update on the Reconciliation achievements for 2019/20, as outlined in this report;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop a Decolonization Strategy that includes comprehensive policy outcomes to complement VanPlay, the Parks & Recreation Services Masterplan, and that will guide ongoing Reconciliation work and initiatives.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Park Board's Reconciliation related and/or affected projects and actions undertaken in 2019/2020. This work has been organized for clarity into three work flows with distinct purposes, and five work types, with examples, being undertaken to implement the Board's Reconciliation goals. The organizational structure of the work is described in part to provide a roadmap for replicating this approach to decolonization should other departments or organizations wish to develop their own decolonization work plans.

In addition, this report recommends the development of a Decolonization Strategy with comprehensive policy outcomes to complement VanPlay, the Parks & Recreation Services Masterplan, and to guide the Park Board's ongoing Reconciliation work.

RELATED BOARD POLICY & PREVIOUS DECISIONS

At its meeting on January 11, 2016, the [Park Board adopted eleven reconciliation strategies](#) in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation of Commission of Canada (TRC). The adopted strategies provided an initial framework for moving forward with Reconciliation, and have led to many initiatives exploring a new relationship with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations specifically, as well as with the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples in Vancouver.

On April 16, 2018, the Board adopted the [Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values](#) as a foundation for Reconciliation within the organization. The mission – to decolonize the Park Board – is an ambitious one, and has reframed much of the ongoing regular business of the Park Board, as well as internal staff cross-departmental relations.

Also in April 2018, the Board approved a motion titled [Truth and Reconciliation with the Park Board's Colonial Roots](#), which directed staff to undertake "an analysis of the Park Board's colonial roots, as well as current practices, and report back with their findings and recommendations to acknowledge any and all injustices uncovered as part of the "truth-telling"

phase”. In July 2018, staff reported back on the initial findings of this analysis and the Board approved recommendations for staff to undertake a comprehensive [Colonial Audit](#) in order to identify opportunities (short & long term) and specific ways to improve Park Board policies and practices with regard to Reconciliation.

On July 23, 2018, the Park Board approved the first two reports of [VanPlay](#), Parks & Recreation Services Master Plan: [Inventory and Analysis](#) & [10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years](#).

On October 9, 2019, the Park Board approved the final two reports of [VanPlay](#), Parks & Recreation Services Master Plan: [Strategic Bold Moves](#) & [The Playbook, Implementation Plan](#). The [Strategic Bold Moves](#) presents tools to create a more connected and equitable future for parks and recreation amenities.

BACKGROUND

Functionally, the Park Board Reconciliation team defines the purpose of “Reconciliation” as:

- to understand who we are on this land, as individuals and as a government institution;
- to position ourselves in relation to the Indigenous rights-holders; and
- to be intentional about who we are being.

Thus far, staff have been implementing Reconciliation as guided by the 11 strategies adopted by the Board in January of 2016, which constitute an assortment of commitments and principles related to Reconciliation. From dedicating specific funds for an art project to honouring Indigenous language sovereignty, and to adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework, the recommendations have formed a solid foundation to begin the process of implementing Reconciliation throughout the organization. They do not, however, function as a cohesive strategy.

The [Reconciliation Mission, Vision & Values](#) statement includes the mission to decolonize the Park Board. This mission, along with the vision and five grounding values, provides a high-level impetus to integrate Reconciliation considerations across the Park Board’s projects and functions. With no specific recommendations on how to do this, staff have nevertheless taken this directive to heart and employed the values and intent of the mission in a variety of ways, as outlined in this report.

DISCUSSION

As a companion to VanPlay, staff recommend developing a decolonization strategy that would identify specific goals, metrics, and strategic directions, as well as articulate a framework for implementing targeted decolonization goals throughout the organization. This framework would build on the paradigm outlined in this report, which demonstrates a way of organizing and understanding the ongoing Reconciliation work being undertaken, and contextualizes that work as part of a multi-layered, system-wide effort to decolonize the institution.

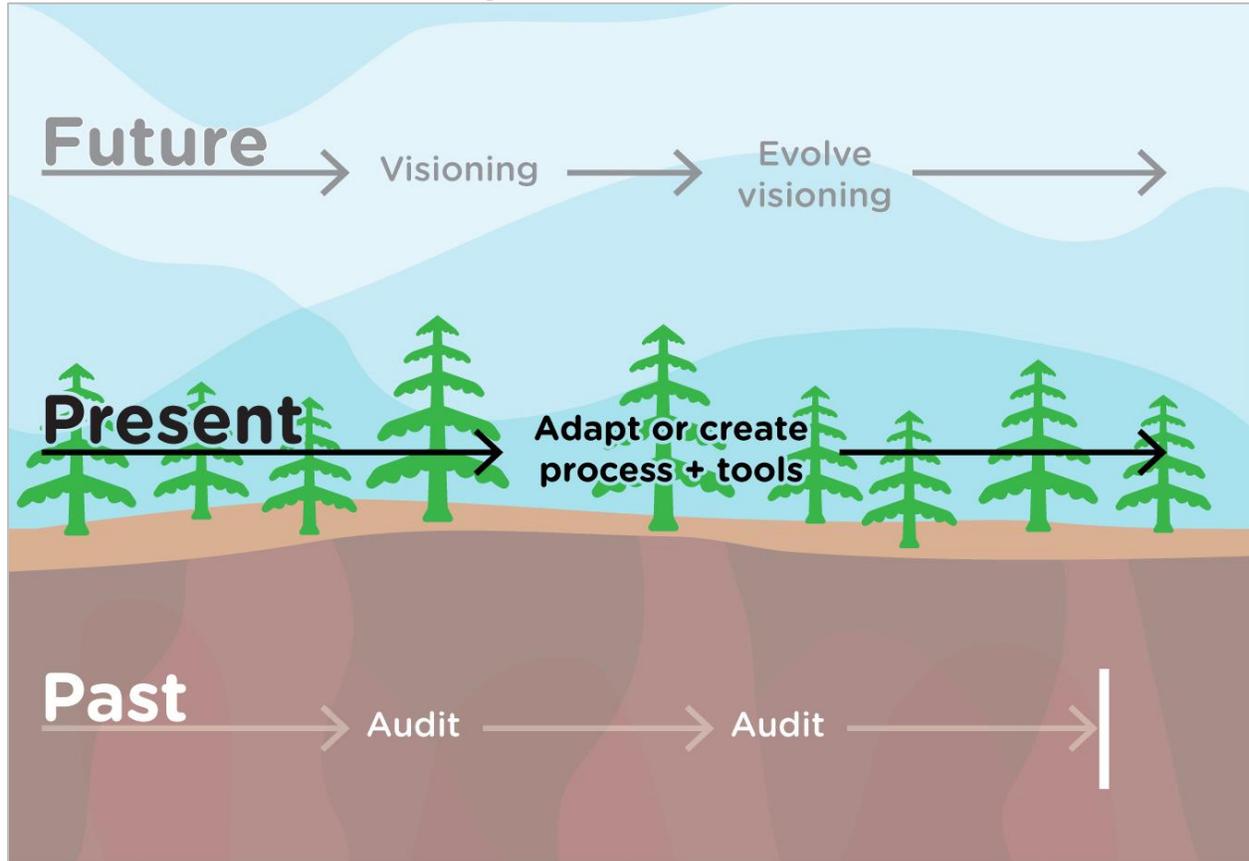
For clarity, this work has been categorized into **three work flows** with distinct purposes, and **five work types** currently being undertaken to implement the Park Board’s Reconciliation goals. This paradigm of work, which will be described in further detail below, provides a structure that can be adapted for a variety of contexts, departments, and for any institutional purposes.

Three Work Flows

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the three Reconciliation workflows are categorized as:

1. Past (*foundation*): colonial audit
2. Present (*on-the-ground*): procedural shifts, ongoing project work, learnings, adaptations
3. Future (*sky*): visioning work for a decolonized future

Figure 1: Three Work Flows



These three workflows run simultaneously as they are interdependent.

The first two workflows (Past and Present) have been ongoing since July of 2018, with the colonial audit work occurring alongside regular Park Board business. Learnings from the on-the-ground work highlight colonial systems for the audit, while analysis of existing data (statistics, standing policies, etc.) highlights ways current projects and methodologies should be adapted to decolonize Park Board approaches.

The Future workflow of visioning has been identified as a gap in the necessary components of decolonization. As such, to support the many staff members undertaking decolonization processes in their own work and lives, workshoping opportunities will be provided to facilitate and encourage visioning for a decolonized future. This visioning work will be focused on developing specifics about what decolonization means and what it can look like, from both within the institution as well as from a broader worldview. From there, further visioning can refine goals for individuals, groups, projects, and for the Park Board as a whole.

The visioning process will be designed to bring into focus specific positive end goals for the Reconciliation work, while also ensuring the sustainability of staff engagement and morale. Where the auditing, diagnosis, and correction elements of the Past & Present workflows constitute a “fixing” mindset, the addition of visioning in the Future workflow introduces a constructive and empowering mindset. The auditing and visioning (Past & Future) workflows are also complementary, and support the ever-evolving work of on-the-ground projects and procedures.

This Future workflow is separate and distinct from the vision statement articulated in the Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values, which more generally points to the ideal qualities of staff in a decolonized, values-grounded institution.

Visioning workshops for a decolonized future are currently in development and are expected to be implemented by Q3 2020.

Five Work Types

After an analysis of the successful existing initiatives and practices being implemented by staff, the ongoing work of decolonization within parks and recreation has been organized into five broad categories:

1. The Learning Ground: “Reconciliation projects” & Indigenous engagement
2. Applied Learnings: Existing Park Board projects
3. The Values Anchor: Mission, Vision, Values
4. The Diagnosis: Audit
5. Whole Systems Thinking: Cross-department coordination



As illustrated in Figure 2, these Five Work Types make-up distinct but complementary approaches to tackle decolonized thinking across the organization.

An overview of each of the Five Work Types will be provided below, including examples of on-the-ground workflow from 2019-20 to provide context and further illustrate the type of work that is supported through a Reconciliation lens.

Figure 2: Five Work Types

1. The Learning Ground

The Learning Ground work type comprises a variety of Reconciliation-focused projects, and projects with Indigenous engagement as a key component of the work. It is where learnings arise, including opportunities to identify:

- internal barriers to Reconciliation initiatives;
- internal barriers to effective consultation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh rights holders;
- principles in effective relations with Indigenous groups; and
- innovative solutions to specific situations that can be extrapolated into more broadly-applicable principles, policies, etc.

These Learning Ground projects and initiatives have been further organized into four sub-categories:

- 1.1. Archaeology
- 1.2. Arts, Culture & Engagement (ACE) Team
- 1.3. Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan
- 1.4. Park Naming, Renaming, & Other Indigenous Naming Opportunities

Examples of some of the Reconciliation-focused projects from 2019/20 (to date) that fall into each of these sub-categories are provided below. A more comprehensive list with additional project details is included in Appendix A.

1.1. Archaeology

Collaboration is ongoing between Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh and the Park Board Archaeologist. Operational staff training continues for archaeological sensitivity and chance find management practices.

1.2. Arts, Culture & Engagement (ACE) Team

The Park Board's ACE Team supports and facilitates a variety of Indigenous cultural projects, initiatives, and partnerships.

1.2.1 Fieldhouse Projects

There are currently three Indigenous cultural projects being supported through the [Fieldhouse Activation Program](#):

- MST A-Frame Activation (Chrystal Sparrow), Second Beach
- Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Strathcona Park
- Medicine Garden (Lori Snyder), Moberly Arts & Cultural Ctr

1.2.2 Arts & Health Projects

The ACE Team continues to support and facilitate two Indigenous elders' projects through the [Arts & Health: Aging through the Arts program](#):

- Urban Aboriginal Elders' group, Britannia Community Centre
- Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Elders' group, Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

1.2.3 Environmental Art/Stewardship Work

- Workshops based on land presented by EarthHand Gleaners, the eco art stewards of Trillium Park North, and the Means of Production artist growing garden of China Creek North; Indigenous artists in their cohort include carver Delmar Williams, and weaver and traditional technologies advocate Tracy Williams;
- Indigenous plant walks with Nicole Preissl are conducted in Jericho Park/West Point Grey;
- Medicinal and edible plants workshops conducted with Lori Snyder at West Point Grey Community Ctr and Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre.

1.2.4 Exhibitions

- Indigenous Women Artists (IWA) Collective at the Roundhouse;
- Feasting for Change at the Roundhouse;
- Words Rising, Birds Rising;
- Cloudscape Comics, Comics in Transit.

1.2.5 Partnerships

- Talking Stick Festival;
- Dance studio space for Indigenous Dance Groups;
- Fulmer First Nations Art Awards Exhibition, BC Achievement Foundation;
- Vines Festival & other events in Pandora Park Fieldhouse.

1.2.6 Education

- Weaving Wellness Conference, Roundhouse Community Ctr;
- Blanket Exercise;
- Sinulkhay and Ladders.

1.2.7 Environmental Stewardship Planning Initiatives

- Bird Window Collision Deterrent: A-Frame artist-in-residence Chrystal Sparrow designing window applications for use on Park Board buildings; to pilot at VanDusen Botanical Garden;
- Stewardship Project Signage: template being developed for the Musqueam Park Creek project; for possible use with future collaborative projects;
- Musqueam Creek water quality testing training for Musqueam staff;
- Stanley Park forage fish habitat project: shade tree planting on foreshore at Brockton Point in partnership with MST.

1.3. Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan

Guided by the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee and Working Group consisting of leadership and members of the Nations and Park Board, this

comprehensive plan aims to develop, articulate and carry forward a compelling 100-year vision for the park, as well as a set of guiding principles to govern all aspects of park design, planning and management in order to realize this vision. The Intergovernmental meetings and associated work in developing this plan inform much of the Reconciliation work that is undertaken throughout the rest of the organization.

1.4. Park Naming, Renaming, & Other Indigenous Naming Opportunities

Based on conversations with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh government representatives regarding naming processes and opportunities, staff are in the process of proposing a way forward and will return with a formal recommendation once agreed upon by the Nations' government representatives.

2. Applied Learnings

Applied Learnings arise from the projects that, in absence of any Park Board Reconciliation framework, goals, or policy, would have been undertaken regardless. With Reconciliation goals in mind, staff leading these projects have endeavoured to apply current learnings from all other Reconciliation work to decolonize the planning and implementation processes of regular Park Board business. Following are examples of how Reconciliation learnings are being incorporated into current projects.

2.1. Northeast False Creek Parks Concept Design

Northeast False Creek is the last piece of undeveloped land on Vancouver's downtown peninsula and a culturally significant site for Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, who maintain profound ties to these lands and waters. This site is also culturally significant for the Chinatown and Black Communities who built their lives in this part of the city.

Respecting this connection to place, the project team is exploring new ideas that root the design of Creekside and Andy Livingstone Parks in local First Nations' cultures and create a place of belonging and connection to nature. Strong relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff have underpinned the work since 2017, making this project a testing ground for new ways of incorporating Indigenous values and worldviews in contemporary park design.

2.2. West End Waterfront Master Plan

The English Bay area has long been known to Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh as an important place of gathering and celebration. Building off the work of the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group, Park Board and City staff have designed a project process that will enable collaboration with the local First Nations, with a focus on providing access to the land and water.

2.3. Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan

The master plan project aims to identify how the park is working today and how it can better respond to evolving local and city-wide needs. A focus on arts and culture will align with the City's [Culture|Shift framework](#) and the Park Board's [Arts Policy](#) and the ongoing commitment to Reconciliation.

2.4. John Hendry Park Master Plan

As the master plan team learns about the cultural importance of John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park to the local urban Indigenous population, they are working to ensure current and desired cultural activities and Indigenous uses are supported.

The team has reached out to urban Indigenous groups that use the park and has sent project referrals to MST. So far the team has met with two Urban Indigenous groups, presented to the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, and is working to engage with the National Indigenous People's Day event organizers.

2.5. Heritage Assessment Projects

Many heritage assessments of buildings and landscapes consider a narrow, colonial view of history and neglect to adequately understand local Indigenous history and values of the site and surrounding area.

For sites on land under Park Board jurisdiction, Park Board staff are endeavouring to reframe discussions on heritage value, and in some cases new heritage assessments include Indigenous Context Statements written by professionals vetted by Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh governments, to report on their histories and cultural values.

2.6. Invasive Species Management Plan

Representatives from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh governments will be sitting on a Supervisory Technical Group with Park Board staff to ensure full collaboration in developing an updated invasive species management plan and inventory for the city-wide park system, along with a specific report for Stanley Park.

2.7. On Water: Non-motorized Watercraft Strategy Implementation

The [On Water: Vancouver's Non-motorized Watercraft Strategy](#), adopted by the Park Board in June, 2019, guides the future direction, implementation, and delivery of non-motorized watercraft recreation. Potential future MST collaboration is written into the strategy, as well as the intent to consult on any permanent physical changes.

2.8. Arts & Culture Planning

Arts and culture are an important part of decolonizing the institution, as the cultural expressions the Park Board sanctions and supports reflect cultural traditions, backgrounds, and beliefs. A decolonized approach would see non-local Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures equitably represented, contextualized, honoured, and displayed alongside the Nations who hold Rights and Title in this territory. Together they could tell the story of this land.

The Arts & Culture Planning objectives include developing cultural policies to support a place-based and decolonized approach to arts and culture. A place-based approach to public art is grounded in the heritage, cultures, landscapes and experiences of a particular locality. The artwork may be in dialogue with or a reflection of a place. Fundamentally, a place-based approach to arts and culture supports decolonization.

Staff have proposed a [Cultural Framework](#) as a long-range strategic plan for cultural development in Vancouver's parks. This framework will outline a vision for cultural

development for the Park Board and identify guiding principles to support cultural service delivery. The Cultural Framework will:

- consider the forms of Indigenous visibility in parks and provide guidance on how the Park Board can support this through cultural expressions;
- be place-based, grounded in community-engaged cultural development, reflect local Indigenous history, settler history, newcomers' history, and support the creation of dynamic spaces for cultural development;
- build off the research completed as part of VanPlay to address equity issues in cultural assets like public art, monuments, and memorials across the city;
- address contested histories and issues such as permanence in the landscape; this will provide guidance on how to deal with place names, monuments, memorials and public art that are contested, and/or no longer relevant to the community

A Collections Management Plan is also being developed, which will include an inventory and analysis of all Park Board public art, memorials, plaques and community-based art projects. This new accessible database will support the Colonial Audit by clarifying and providing transparency about what stories are being told in parks and by whom.

3. The Values Anchor

The Values Anchor is the application of the Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values at the staff and leadership level. Initiatives put the principles, such as decolonization, learning, leadership, and patience to work and examine how to integrate values-based practices into daily business. Following are examples of where these principles have been incorporated.

3.1. Framework for Collaboration on Joint Projects

As a foundation for the [VanPlay Implementation of One Water initiatives](#) presented in February 2020, staff from Park Planning & Development and City Engineering Services (Integrated Water Management) prepared a Terms of Reference document that outlines the vision, objectives, and principles for working together on joint projects that manage water across jurisdictional lines. The Park Board's Reconciliation values were woven into all aspects of the framework, strengthening the relationship between staff and resulting in a vision that incorporates connection to the land and long-term stewardship.

3.2. Reciprocity - Staff Learning Event

This event was organized to daylight and celebrate Vancouver Parks & Recreation supported Indigenous stewardship and cultural programming by bringing together Indigenous partners and key Park Board and City staff. The presentations brought to light the colonial barriers faced by Indigenous programmers and the decolonizing tools being developed by urban and local Indigenous cultural practitioners.

The event was titled "Reciprocity" to daylight Indigenous understanding of reciprocity: an exchange of labour, knowledge, resources, and values. Reciprocity is at the centre of Indigenous "relational" work, in contrast to "transactional" relationships, which are principally labour or goods in exchange for monetary compensation.

3.3. Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee - Elected Officials Event

A luncheon was held to provide an opportunity for elected officials from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and the Park Board to meet each other, and to also provide an overview of the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan.

4. The Diagnosis

The Diagnosis work type is the practice of investigating a situation or problem in order to identify its cause. The Colonial Audit is an investigation into the impacts of colonial approaches and values at the Park Board to understand the ongoing harms they cause.

In addition to the specific tasks of data collection, all of the tasks that fall into the five types of work contribute to the audit. The process of learning and applying Reconciliation learnings highlight the colonial impact we continue to have and the ways that we uphold existing power structures. As the five types of work continue, colonial policies and practices are recorded for the audit.

4.1. Definitions

Colonial: Colonialism is not synonymous with European or Western. Colonialism is the system that seeks to replace local laws, customs, and governance structures with its own, and seeks to obtain control over the land and its resources.

Audit: Collection and summary of relevant documents and data.

4.2. Process

The [initial colonial audit findings](#) presented in July 2018, laid out four areas of colonial impact:

- Dispossession;
- Archaeology
- Culture, and
- Prioritizing non-Indigenous Ways of Knowing

While data collection is underway for portions of the audit (see “Content”), another method of content generation for the audit is through staff experience, as examined during a period of change. Staff throughout parks and recreation have been encountering systemic barriers when undertaking decolonization attempts for their areas of work. As these barriers arise, the underlying causes are identified for inclusion in the audit.

Example 1 - Funding/resource support for third-parties conducting work in parks:

Transparency and accountability for the expenditure of public funds is a priority, and cannot rely solely on continuing to support existing relationships. To more equitably spend these funds and recognize Indigenous expertise, status quo processes must be revisited.

Audit component: Examining existing funding flows to third-party partners, as well as historical processes for determining the allocation of those funds.

Example 2 - Practice of smudging in public buildings

Attempts to sensitively handle the issue run into bureaucratic requirements which, while designed to ensure transparency and physical safety, often make broad scale rules with sound intent but no flexibility in execution and no consideration for the specific rights of Indigenous peoples.

Audit component: Analyze policies for their barriers to Indigenous practice in public space.

Example 3 - Inadequate support for ongoing relational work with marginalized groups in major projects

Good faith engagement is conducted with historically marginalized groups. However, the relationship-building is not considered a measure of success in and of itself. As well, the feedback received from these groups usually results in changes to principles and objectives, but not necessarily as measurable, tangible project outcomes.

Audit component: Examining case studies of major projects and decision-making at senior levels as they align with learnings obtained in engagement with historically marginalized groups.

4.3. Content

The audit will contain statistics, data, analysis of policies, and case studies. These will include, but not be limited to the following areas:

- art & monuments collections database – *in progress*;
- park names database – *complete with historical significance included*;
- policy review – *in progress*;
- archaeological data – *ongoing*;
- financial review – *beginning fall 2020*;
- land analysis: allocation, disposition – *beginning fall 2020, scoping in progress*;
- third-party partner database – *in progress*;
- local Indigenous visibility analysis – *beginning fall 2020*;
- consultancy analysis (expertise sought / supported) – *data collection in progress, analysis to begin fall 2020*; and
- case studies – *in progress*.

Completion of audit content collection is currently targeted for fall 2021.

4.4. Purpose & Limitations

The audit is intended to highlight key areas within the organization that continue to uphold colonial power structures and privilege historically-supported groups. The audit is not a mechanism for solving the issues identified, or for making specific reparatory recommendations.

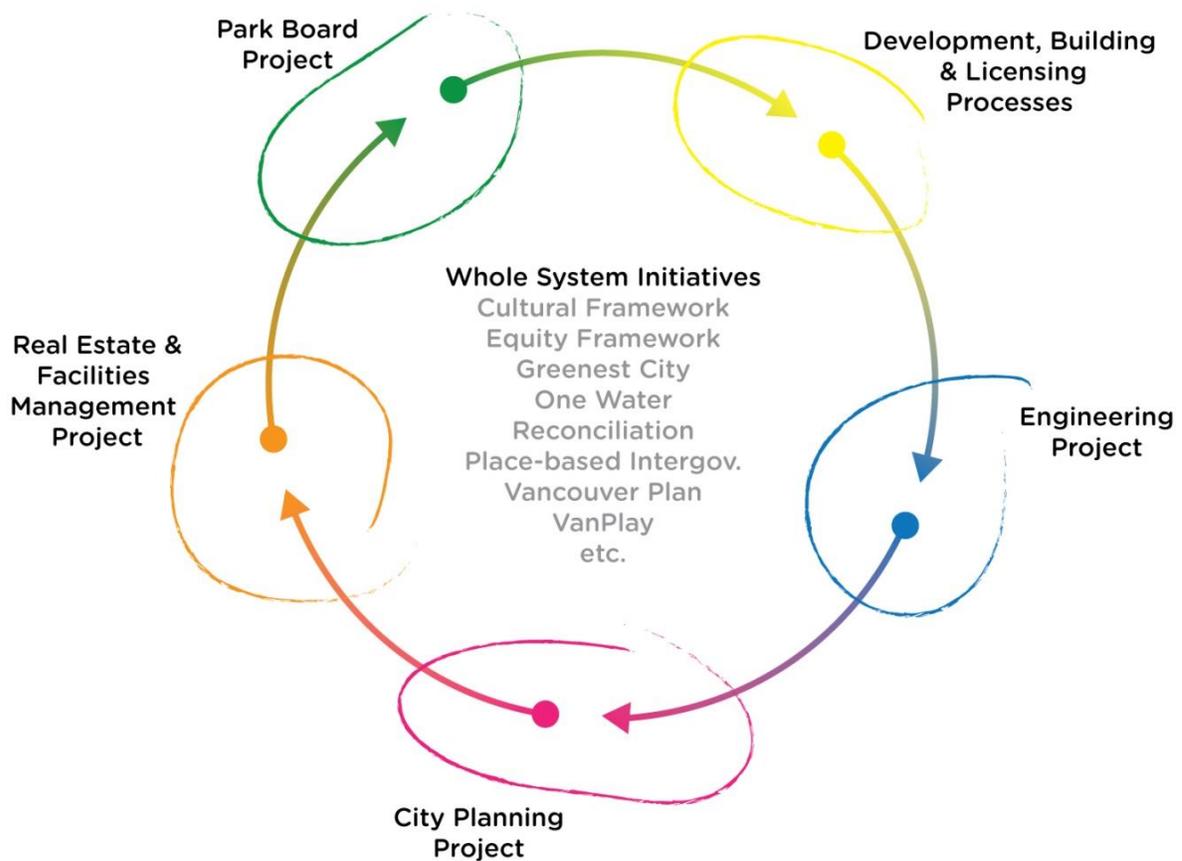
5. Whole Systems Thinking

A significant portion of the Reconciliation work involves discussions within the Park Board and with City departments on high-level, broad-scope projects, along with providing advisory services on specific projects with regard to Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh consultation, and impacts to Urban Indigenous communities.

This cross-departmental coordination reflects the desire on the part of both staff and leadership to de-silo departmental work through the lens of city-wide strategies such as One Water and VanPlay. However, staff efforts in this regard are aimed at counteracting inherent silos; the issue is systemic, not individual.

The current review process for assessing the value of a potential project is focussed on how that project addresses a specific issue; if the project meets the needs of the public on that specific issue, it is deemed worthy of proceeding. That project could have impacts on other departments' work, which they then react to. This silo system is ill-suited to whole-systems initiatives. Solutions must be explored to connect the whole-systems initiatives with all departments (see Figure 3 below). At the moment, the whole-systems initiatives are obliged to be the primary responsibility of one department.

Figure 3: Whole Systems Thinking



Limiting factors for whole-systems impact reviews include staff time and capacity, and lack of a structural mandate for adequate interdepartmental review. Such a review would also

have project timeline and budget impacts, hence the reliance on the current situation, which can cause cyclical problems.

A cross-departmental “Whole Systems Thinking” approach is challenging but necessary to achieve many of the goals set by elected leadership and is necessitated by environmental, social, and population pressures. As well, the feedback received from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh consultation points to a lack of awareness on the part of project teams about the broader, long-term, and cumulative impacts of Park Board projects and activities.

As such, an analysis of the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan process would be beneficial in understanding how a holistic, place-based, and intergovernmental approach can best support the health of a place, its ecology, its flora and fauna, and people.

CONSIDERATIONS

Since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report and Calls to Action, Reconciliation has been made a priority in organizations across the country, including the Vancouver Park Board. However, beyond increasing awareness of Indigenous issues and the full history of Canadian colonization, there has been little direction or agreement on the precise definitions of Reconciliation or decolonization.

In the absence of these definitions, goals can be nebulous or open to interpretation. Without identifying specific directions for actionable change, and ensuring accountability, Reconciliation goals often fall down the priority list when timelines, budgets, or fundamental systemic change is required. This is the impetus for the ongoing and proposed work outlined in this report, and for its recommendation to extend and formalize a decolonization strategy applicable across the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

CONCLUSION

The Park Board has been undertaking precedent-setting intergovernmental work with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, as well as undertaking equity work with urban Indigenous groups. From diagnosing systemic issues to implementing project and programming changes, Reconciliation and decolonization work continues to evolve throughout the organization.

Armed with staff experience and lessons learned from ongoing projects and programming, the Park Board is well positioned to develop a clear decolonization strategy to formalize the work and guide policy outcomes for measurable and tangible systemic changes.

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Learning Ground: Reconciliation & Indigenous-focused Projects 2019-20

Examples, with more detailed information, of some of the Reconciliation-focused projects from 2019/20 (to date) that are included in the “Learning Ground” work type are provided below.

1.1. Archaeology

Collaboration is ongoing between Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh and the Park Board Archaeologist. Operational staff training continues for archaeological sensitivity and chance find management practices. Archaeological projects include:

- completion of the repaving of Stanley Park Drive;
- upgrades to Third Beach and Lumberman’s Arch washrooms;
- upgrades to Stanley Park Works Yard gardener’s shed and perimeter fence;
- responding to emergencies; e.g. water line breaks at Stanley Park and Locarno Beach;
- supporting screening of archaeological sediments from Locarno Beach at Musqueam;
- working with MST archaeologists in undertaking archaeology assessments for park projects, including: Stanley Park Bike Plan, Volunteer-Tatlow Park upgrades, and work at the Locarno Beach site;
- inclusion of MST archaeology personnel in Vancouver in presentations to Park Board Operations staff and others; and
- providing ongoing staff training for archaeological sensitivity.

1.2. Arts, Culture & Engagement (ACE) Team

The Park Board’s ACE Team supports and facilitates a variety of Indigenous cultural projects, initiatives, and partnerships.

1.2.1 Fieldhouse Projects

There are currently three Indigenous cultural projects being supported through the [Fieldhouse Activation Program](#):

- MST A-Frame Activation (Chrystal Sparrow), Second Beach
 - July 2018 - 2020 (with extension possibility);
 - cultural residency supports a community member from the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), or səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations work in a creative, activated, and community-engaged art practice;
- Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Strathcona Park
 - January 2019 - December 2021 (with extension possibility)
 - activates fieldhouse with community-engaged arts activities, community meetings, workshops, Indigenous food systems, networking, and educational events for the Wild Salmon Caravan and Indigenous Food, and Farm School projects that they lead.
 - goal is to facilitate relationship building to better understand each other and our unique relationship to Indigenous land and food systems.

Learning Ground: Reconciliation & Indigenous-focused Projects 2019-20

- Medicine Garden (Lori Snyder), Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre
 - November 2017 - December 2020 (with extension possibility)
 - Lori is an urban Aboriginal artist and Indigenous herbalist working with community to transform the fieldhouse garden into a local Indigenous Medicine Garden;
 - offers ongoing workshops and events where community members can learn about local berries, herbs and plants, and associated teachings.

1.2.2 Arts & Health Projects

The ACE Team continues to support and facilitate two Indigenous elders' projects through the [Arts & Health: Aging through the Arts program](#):

- Urban Aboriginal Elders' group, Britannia Community Centre
- Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Elders' group, Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Through these projects, staff increased visibility of Indigenous languages, with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh welcome signage at an annual showcase of Arts & Health artworks, and added a territorial acknowledgement to the new website's homepage. Acknowledgements and welcomes are already a regular element of event programming.

As a result of regular coming together in the social context of the annual Showcase, Elders from Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the South Asian seniors at Moberly Arts and Culture Centre became more interested in each other's work so the ACE Team organized a 'blind date' to bring the two groups together to share food and stories.

1.2.3 Environmental Art/Stewardship Work

- Workshops based on land presented by EarthHand Gleaners, the eco art stewards of Trillium Park North, and the Means of Production artist growing garden of China Creek North; Indigenous artists in their cohort include carver Delmar Williams, and weaver and traditional technologies advocate Tracy Williams;
- Indigenous plant walks with Nicole Preissl are conducted in Jericho Park/West Point Grey;
- Medicinal and edible plants workshops conducted with Lori Snyder at West Point Grey Community Ctr and Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre.

1.2.4 Exhibitions

The ACE team has supported the following events:

- Indigenous Women Artists (IWA) Collective at the Roundhouse (July 2019)
 - IWA presented the "Under the Salish Moon" art exhibition;

Learning Ground: Reconciliation & Indigenous-focused Projects 2019-20

- related events included an exhibition reception, a weekend art market, artist talks, a film screening, performances, an artist panel discussion, and nine free workshops at community centres and spaces across Vancouver. Total artists involved: 29.
- Feasting for Change at the Roundhouse (September 2019);
 - an exhibition and series of workshops that brought together the work of the Wild Salmon Caravan, Sustenance Festival and the Hua Foundation to explore ideas of local food sovereignty within various cultural communities and in particular local Indigenous communities;
 - exhibit featured the artwork of 14 artists;
 - public activations, in conjunction with the Sustenance Festival, brought food sustainability into the fore.
- Words Rising, Birds Rising;
 - in collaboration with the Environment & Sustainability Planning team, the ACE Team continues to investigate ways to share and continue the important work which came out of the successful 'Words Rising, Birds Rising' 2018 residency that saw artists from each of the three local First Nations create work exploring their cultural and personal connections to birds;
 - the ACE Team is currently working with the Seymour Art Gallery (North Vancouver) to possibly remount the exhibition in fall 2020, and assisting the Planning team in re-imagining this work for the Museum of Vancouver's courtyard in 2020.
- Cloudscape Comics, Comics in Transit.
 - a collective of comics artists that is part of the Fieldhouse Activation Program;
 - worked with Indigenous comic book artists across the province to present 11 one-page comics in bus shelters around Vancouver;
 - entire series was also exhibited at RedGate Arts;
 - featured artists included Ocean Hyland, Michael Nicol Yaagulanaas, Whess Harman and Raven John.

1.2.5 Partnerships

The following partnerships are supported:

- Talking Stick Festival (ongoing – 18th annual event in progress);
 - an annual festival celebrating Indigenous art and performance, part of an enduring partnership between the Roundhouse and Full Circle Arts Society;
 - audiences engage in a wide range of traditional and contemporary art practices, building greater public awareness of Indigenous living culture;

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- Dance studio space for Indigenous dance groups (2019);
 - developing ongoing relationships with Indigenous dance groups, offering free rehearsal space in community centre dance studios;
 - Git Hayetsk Dance has regular space held at Strathcona Community Centre;
 - Butterflies in Spirit has regular space held at Mount Pleasant Community Centre;
 - Rehearsal space provided to Jeanette Kotowich, independent dance artist and choreographer (April 2019), and to Acuhko Simowuk Collective, Métis dance collective (May/June 2019).
- Fulmer First Nations Art Awards Exhibition at Roundhouse (November 2019)
 - in partnership with the BC Achievement Foundation, recognizing artistic excellence in traditional and contemporary art by artists who have been awarded the 2019 Fulmer Award in First Nations Art;
 - provides an opportunity for the public to view significant artwork while learning about First Nations art and culture from throughout the province;
 - a free artist panel discussion was moderated by Connie Watts, Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs, Emily Carr University, in conversation with previous awardees including Phil Gray, KC Hall and Bill McLennan.
- Vines Art Festival (August 2019) & other Pandora Park Fieldhouse events.
 - committed to capturing the imaginations of new audiences and inserting creativity into Vancouver's everyday public spaces, including parks;
 - free public events create platforms for local artists and performers to create with and on the land, steering their creative impulses toward work that focuses on the environment – whether a deep love of nature, sustainability, or climate justice;
 - mandate includes “[using] art as a method to work toward decolonization and address social issues in relationship to race, class, and gender”;
 - includes Indigenous-led programming including:
 - Resilient Roots brought together emerging Indigenous artists who are also bearing their souls on the frontline grassroots movements, speaking out against pipelines and resource extraction, and combining art with activism; led by Senaqwila Wyss (Sḵw̱wú7mesh Ethnobotanist), Heather Lamoureux (Artistic Director of Vines Festival) with support from Sara Cadeau (Anishnaabe Kwe, ceremonialist, singer, writer, maker of medicines);
 - Unsettling Ceremony with Sara Cadeau (Anishnaabe Kwe) and Cecilia Point (Musqueam); What comes after land acknowledgments, and what should have come before?; participants invited to help sing the first note to a medicine song of healing.

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1.2.6 Education

- Weaving Wellness Conference at the Roundhouse (September 2019);
 - co-developed and coordinated Weaving Wellness, the Alliance for Arts and Culture annual conference;
 - curated by Indigenous theatre artist Lisa Ravensbergen, the conference focused on Indigenous cultural practices foregrounding connections between creativity and well-being;
 - presenters included Gabriel George, Dalannah Bowen, Kamala Todd, Ronnie Dean Harris, Carleen Thomas, Janice George.
- Blanket Exercise (September 2019);
 - partnership with Radix Theatre, presented in conjunction with the exhibition Feasting for Change exhibit;
 - through role playing and mapping, participants experienced Turtle Island as one of the original people.
- Sinulkhay and Ladders
 - ACE programmers led Regional programmers' sessions playing and discussing Sinulkhay and Ladders, a board game developed by Michelle Nahanee that sparks reflection and discussion about decolonizing practices.

1.2.7 Environmental Stewardship Planning Initiatives

- Bird Window Collision Deterrent: A-Frame artist-in-residence Chrystal Sparrow designing window applications for use on Park Board buildings; to pilot at VanDusen Botanical Garden;
- Stewardship Project Signage: template being developed for the Musqueam Park Creek project; for possible use with future collaborative projects;
- Musqueam Creek water quality testing training for Musqueam staff;
- Stanley Park forage fish habitat project: shade tree planting on foreshore at Brockton Point in partnership with MST.