



## Park Board General Manager's Office Report October 19, 2020

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

### **Kensington Community Centre Update**

Due to an unresolved internal governance dispute between two competing boards claiming to be the legitimate and lawful board of the Kensington Community Centre Association (KCCA), there has been no functioning board of KCCA to jointly operate the Kensington Community Centre with the Park Board. The result was that operation of recreation programs in the community centre were impacted.

As a result of the governance dispute, on October 7, 2020, on application by the Park Board, the BC Supreme Court lifted the injunction that had previously prevented the Park Board from acting on the notice of termination of the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the Kensington Community Centre Association (KCCA). As a result, the termination of the JOA is now effective and KCCA is no longer jointly operating the Kensington Community Centre with the Park Board.

Staff have begun planning for the resumption of recreation programs and services starting in January 2021 to be operated by the Park Board.

### **2020 Sustainability Scholars Program**

This program, hosted by City of Vancouver's Sustainability Group, is in partnership with the University of British Columbia Sustainability Initiative that engages graduate students to perform leading edge sustainability research for the City.

Park Board welcomed and mentored the following Sustainability Scholars:

- Cheryl Ng, undertook a project entitled "[Natural Capital Valuation](#)" under the supervision of PB staff Chad Townsend. Urban parks offer a range of benefits from promoting physical and mental health to improving our air quality. Many of these benefits are often "invisible" and difficult to attribute a dollar value to, yet the ability to articulate economic value of parks is critical for justifying the use of public funds for park protection. Cheryl's report provides a review of natural capital valuation followed by preliminary recommendations on how to calculate the economic value of Vancouver's parks.
- Joanne Fitzgibbons, supervised by PB staff Katherine Howard, undertook a [study to deepen our understanding of the "5-minute walk from nature"](#) target. Most well-being benefits of nature come from spending time in "restorative natural areas". These spaces are natural places we can go to "clear our mind" and experience tranquil moments. Staff will now work with Jo's indicators, as presented in her report, to create a map of these Restorative Natural Areas that can then be added to the VanPlay Equity Initiative Zone maps to understand the provision of natural spaces throughout the city.
- Logan Oyunkhishig, under the supervision of PB staff Dana McDonald, undertook a [Biodiversity Audit of Vancouver Golf Courses](#). A survey of bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile biodiversity at McLeery, Fraserview and Langara golf courses, 3 pitch and putts and 6 other park spaces for comparison. The results presented in his report will contribute to the Golf Strategy to be initiated in 2021 and improve understanding of how these spaces contribute to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and access to nature for a growing population.



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

- Presentation on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Update;
- Motion on [Mandatory Mask Policy for Vancouver Civic Facilities](#);
- Report on [Year-Round Free Parking Subsidy for Veterans and Current Serving Members of the Canadian Forces](#); and
- Report on [Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant – Fall 2020 Intake](#).

**Board Briefing Memos and Emails: October 6 to 19, 2020**

Date	Topic
Oct 13	<a href="#">Oppenheimer Park Restoration &amp; Reopening</a>
Oct 14	<a href="#">Reconciliation Planner Organizational Change</a>
Oct 16	<a href="#">Community Centre Strategy</a>
Oct 16	<a href="#">COVID-19 Mandatory Mask Policy Considerations</a>