



Park Board General Manager's Office Report November 23, 2020

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

VanPlay Recognition

[VanPlay \(Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan\)](#) was recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects at the Colorado Chapter Annual Awards event held last week. The project was presented an Honor Award in the special category of "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" and was featured in a virtual roundtable at the event. Design Workshop, the Colorado-based landscape architecture firm and lead consultant team for the project, prepared and delivered the award submission.

World Urban Parks Congress – November 20 to 27, 2020

Katherine Howard, Planner II, represented the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation at the Annual World Urban Parks Congress hosted by the Municipality of Tirana, Albania. The theme of the congress is "Parks for All" with an emphasis on the courage to grow a greener future. Katherine [presented VanPlay with a focus on the plan's approach to imbedding equity in the organization's decision-making processes](#).

Still Creek Salmon

The Still Creek stream keepers reported earlier this month that five chum salmon were observed in Still Creek near the Vancouver Film Studios. This indicator species represents resilience and an amazing journey that is reliant on many factors highlighted as objectives in VanPlay: habitat connectivity, open streams, water quality, and riparian forest canopy. Still Creek's Vancouver's headwaters lie in Renfrew Ravine Park. These resilient fish would have had to swim up the mouth of the Fraser River, through the Brunette River in New Westminster, up the fish ladder at the east end of Burnaby Lake, and finally into Still Creek through the industrial flats of Burnaby, under the Highway 1 freeway and Sky train into eastern Vancouver.

The Spanish Banks stream keepers also reported that they have seen a 32" Chum female in Spanish Banks Park, in a stream that was daylighted approximately 20 years ago. They will be monitoring for Coho over the next few weeks.

Jones Park Renewal

Jones Park is a 1.42-hectare park renewal project located in the Kensington-Cedar Cottage neighbourhood, adjacent to a significant Equity Initiative Zone. Following a community led engagement process in 2014, Park Board staff led further public consultation in 2018, identifying top priorities including a playground upgrade, looped path with exercise equipment, picnic tables, and event space. These elements have been integrated into the recently completed renewal, which opened to the public in mid-November.

"East" Park Pollinator Meadow

Located along the east side of Ontario Street just north of East 1st Avenue, the "East" Park (working name) temporary pollinator meadow provides enhanced biodiversity as well as meeting a growing need for green space and access to nature in the False Creek community, while the planning and design process for the larger park is underway. A small lawn area is provided with seating logs for informal recreation and socializing. The meadow is an interim condition with a green infrastructure drainage system to temporarily hold rainwater in a reservoir until it can dissipate and recharge the ground water. In heavy rain events, rainwater will accumulate for a short period of time on the surface until it is absorbed in the gravel trench. The project opened to the public in early November.



Riley Park Farmers Market – Extended Operations in 2021

The Riley Park Farmers Market traditionally operates from May to October annually. The Vancouver Farmers Market is seeking to begin market operations in January 2021, rather than May 2021, to accommodate growing market demand and better enable physical distancing at the adjacent Riley Park Winter Farmers Market. Park Board’s Special Events & Filming office will be issuing a permit to the Riley Park Farmers Market for extended operations in 2021. Park Board staff will continue to collaborate with the organizer to ensure the market is executed as expected and are able to address or mitigate any operational issues should they arise.

Temporary Expanded Patio Program for Restaurants in Vancouver Parks & Facilities - extension

Park Board’s Temporary Expanded Patio Program, was set to expire on October 31, 2020 has been extended through October 31, 2021, to align with [provincial liquor regulations](#). This extension will allow our restaurant partners to continue to repurpose existing indoor seating outside, while maintaining physical distancing requirements. The parameters for the use of these expanded service areas are aligned to those of the City - umbrellas and portable heaters will be allowed while tenting of the spaces will not be allowed; hardwired services and utilities may be permitted but would be subject to normal permitting processes. Park Board staff will work with its restaurant partners to ensure that relevant stakeholders are appropriately notified and that any operational issues are adequately addressed

Britannia Renewal Project - Rezoning Contract Award

In partnership with the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library Board, and Britannia Community Services Society, the City of Vancouver has awarded the contract for the next phase of the Britannia Renewal project. This phase builds on direction from the 2018 Master Plan and includes work to rezone the entire 18-acre site comprising parcels owned by the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board. The scope of work will include preparing detailed design criteria for the future pool and recreation spaces to guide the design of the first building. This will include consideration of accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, resilience, and other community priorities and policy directions including VanSplash and VanPlay.

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

- Report on [Contract Award for Consulting Services for Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre](#) authorizing City staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with Diamond and Schmitt Architects, Inc. as the Consultant for the design and development of Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre, child care and outdoor pool for a term of 6 years or until services are complete.
- Report on [Coal Harbour School, Childcare and Affordable Housing Project](#) seeking Council approval for the project as well as to delegate authority to the General Manager of Real Estate and Facilities Management to prepare, negotiate, approve, execute and/or register all legal agreements and documents, including a master operating agreement with all of the stakeholders of the Project including the Park Board.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: November 2 to 23, 2020

Date	Topic
Nov 8	COVID-19 – New Provincial Health Order Impacts