



Park Board General Manager's Office Report April 26, 2021

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

Homeless Encampments in Parks

On March 31, 2021, the Province of BC, City of Vancouver, and Board of Parks and Recreation signed a [Memorandum of Understanding on Support for Unsheltered Vancouver Residents](#) (MOU) that formalizes the commitment to work together to end the Strathcona Park encampment and help prevent future encampments in Vancouver. The City and BC Housing continue to work together to prepare spaces and incrementally move people into housing that matches their needs.

To support these efforts and encourage people currently living in Strathcona Park to connect with outreach staff and accept offers of indoor accommodation, a series of Park Board General Manager's Orders were issued to restrict temporary overnight shelters in the park. The most recent GM Order issued on April 9 requires that all existing tents, temporary shelters, and structures be removed from the park by April 30. This order expanded upon the two previous orders issued on February 10 and March 30, which first restricted temporary shelters from the west side and then from the northeast corner of the park. As people move from the park into indoor accommodation, temporary fence barriers are being erected so that staff can assess conditions and develop remediation plans to return the full park to community use.

Staff have been providing regular updates to the community about the ongoing in Strathcona Park; anyone seeking more information or who are interested in receiving these updates can email homelessness@vancouver.ca. The updates are also listed on [BC Housing's website](#).

Outdoor Pools and Beaches – Summer 2021

Staff are busy planning for the resumption of a full operational season for outdoor pools and beaches this summer. We will start with following the same COVID-19 protocols as last year, with the hope that as restrictions ease throughout the summer, outdoor pool capacities may be increased under a phased approach. Defined swim sessions with separate registrations for length and public swimming will also resume. The return of limited aquafit and swim lesson sessions is also in development. Anticipated season opening date is May 22, 2021.

Parks & Recreation Professional Development Conferences - 2021

Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers are invited to attend the annual professional development events hosted by the Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC) and the BC Recreation & Parks Association (BCRPA). This year both events will be hosted online - the RFABC conference themed "Resilience & RE-Creation" runs from April 27 to 29 and the BCRPA symposium themed "For Everyone. From Everywhere. Recreation + Parks" runs from May 4 to 6. Darren Peterson, Recreation Manager, will be presenting on a BCRPA symposium panel on the topic "COVID Opportunity: Activating Outdoor Spaces" to showcase the innovation and learnings from Vancouver's pandemic response to outdoor activation.

Skateboard Amenities Strategy - Engagement Phase 1

Phase one of public engagement for the Skateboard Amenities Strategy will begin on May 7 and will run for approximately one month. The Skateboard Amenities Strategy will provide a framework for a city-wide network of amenities that will accommodate the skateboarding and other wheeled sport recreation needs of all Vancouver residents. Engagement will be seeking input on our existing skateboard parks and amenities, and how we can improve on what we currently have.



COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has requested space for two new COVID-19 “pop-up” community vaccination clinics – one to be located at the Killarney Community Centre from May 10 to 31 and the other at Strathcona Community Centre from May 11 to 26 (dates subject to change). The two Community Centre Associations have been consulted and are supportive of this important work. As with previous activations, staff are working with VCH to facilitate access and set-up.

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

A report on [One Year In: City of Vancouver Contributions to COVID-19 Recovery and Report Back](#) that summarizes the City’s contributions to economic and community recovery through the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and work going forward, as well as providing a staff report back on the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee speakers’ recommendations, per Council direction.

A member’s motion [Affirming Support for a Formula E World Championship Event](#) seeking Council approval to direct staff to work with One Stop Strategy (OSS) to enable the Canadian Round Formula E event that is anticipated to include a two-day conference, music and cultural events and one day electric vehicle race in July 2022. Recommendations include considerations for a three-year term, with all costs to be borne by or recoverable from the organizer.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: April 13 to 26, 2021

Date	Topic
Apr 19	Strathcona Park Encampment Update
Apr 22	VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan – Project Update & Engagement Summary