



Park Board General Manager's Report May 17, 2021

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

Vancouver Youth Week – May 1 to 8, 2021

This year, Youth Week looked a little different from past years. Rather than a large celebration, the team wanted to offer something meaningful on a smaller scale. The Community Youth Workers heard loud and clear that youth wanted an opportunity to swim and skate with their friends. The team offered four youth only skating sessions and one youth only swim out of Hillcrest and Britannia Community Centres. Staff also organized COVID-safe activities, hosted a COVID-19 safe 3-Point Contest, a Movie and Graffiti Art Night. Overall, 125 youth took part in these activities.

For the Arts, Culture and Engagement Team, BC Youth Week saw the fabulous, first live exhibition of 2021 to the Roundhouse Exhibition Hall. The exhibit featured video screenings of performances by the Flaming Balloon Poetry Collective and Some Assembly - production of UPROOTED, a play about climate change written, scored and performed by youth. This important project re-enlivens the Roundhouse as the Park Board's COVID-safe hub for community-engaged arts.

ACE Team also hosted an online celebration where over 50 young people participated. Youth who worked with Roundhouse poet-in-residence, Angelic Poversky, transformed the website of Roundhouse with a multi-media collaborative poetry exhibition entitled "Balloons that Flame".

Golf Operations Update

The golf industry has continued to be a safe, healthy alternative for residents during this pandemic. All COVID protocols that we operated under last season continue to be in place and are well received by customers. Demand for golf tee times have increased with record number of rounds in the first quarter of 2021 and continuing on to the second quarter.

In June, Golf Operations will be rolling out a new initiative called "Tee It Forward". This will provide a forward tee yardage and will allow better access for new golfers, juniors, and seniors who want to have a more enjoyable round. Construction of these new tees is complete. As part of this new initiative, we are also moving to a numbered tee, removing the dated women's tee and men's tee descriptions. This new numbered system (e.g. Tee 1, Tee 2, etc.) will encourage golfers to play the appropriate tee yardage that fits their ability, thereby achieving a better pace of play and more enjoyment for all players.

Golf Operations, in collaboration with the Planning, Policy & Environment, added a combined 9.6 hectares of low or no mow areas as part of the Park Meadow pilot project and will be seeding wildflower mixes into some of these areas this month.

Langara Golf Course continues to install engineered slit drainage and is in Phase 2 of installing a full course drainage system. Work will continue into the summer.

Food and Beverage Services Update

Clubhouses

Leveraging the high demand for golf, our three golf clubhouses continue to operate following the latest protocols (currently in effect through the May long weekend). All three clubhouses are offering take out service with distanced patio seating for guests. In support of sustainable food programs, the edible gardens at the golf courses will be planted shortly and guests will soon be enjoying delicious Park Board grown salads. To meet the needs of the increasing customers to our pitch and putts, Park Board is launching a new gourmet sandwich and salad program.

Concessions

As we head into the May long weekend, all thirteen Park Board concessions will be open. This season, Food & Beverage Operations Team Leader, look to continue to improve both plant-based options and nostalgic menu items, including introducing new items and by modernizing the Burger Program. With the increasing demand for an improved coffee experience, we are planning to launch cold brew coffee and piloting Nitro cold brew coffee at select locations.

Mobile Food Vending Permits

The Park Board mobile food cart permit season will be officially launched on May 22. This year saw a significant increase in applications. This season, residents will see new food cart options, as well as the return of fresh local fruit stands at select locations, a variety of local frozen treat carts and other savory delicacies.

Tree Planting at Jericho Park

Over the month of March 2021, the Bayview Community School that runs a nature program in Jericho Park partnered with the Board of Parks and Recreation on a month long tree planting project with the preschool children enrolled in that program.

The Urban Forestry, Environment, and Sustainability teams provided 12 trees, such as Garry Oak, Arbutus, and Indian Plum, for the Bayview Community Preschool to plant at approved locations in Jericho Beach Park with the help of T'uy'tanat Cease Wyss. T'uy'tanat Cease Wyss (AKA Indigenous Plant Diva) of the Skwxw'u7mesh, Sto:Lo, Hawaiian & Swiss Nations, is an ethno-botanist, traditionally trained in this field by Indigenous Elders. Her work involves site-specific and culturally focused teaching with storytelling as her means of sharing knowledge. She taught the children about best practice for planting the Indian Plum Tree through storytelling, including how this is an excellent bird feeding tree, attracting the cedar waxwing among others, and that the flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds, native bees, and other insects.

This project was a beloved activity for the teachers, children and parents and the Bayview Community Preschool would like to sincerely thank the Board of Parks and Recreation and partners for facilitating this program.

Brewers Park Renewal

Brewers Park is located in the Kensington Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood that scores high in the VanPlay Initiative Zones. It is a 3-acre neighbourhood park on the west side of Victoria Drive, one block north of Kingsway. The construction, which started on May 4, 2020, has achieved substantial completion. The park partially reopened to the public on May 7, with access to the playground, fieldhouse plaza, Tai Chi plaza, community garden, tennis court, and multi-sport court. The full park re-opening is planned in the summer, after all lawn areas are fully established.

Templeton Park Track Renewal – Issue for Tender

On September 30, 2019, the Vancouver Park Board approved the [Track and Field Strategy](#), developed in partnership with the Vancouver School Board. One of the strategy's "Priority A" recommendations is to upgrade the existing recreational track at Templeton Park, located in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood near Hastings and Nanaimo. The project, currently out to tender, includes replacing the existing track surface with low-impact, rubberized surfacing and designated lane markings to improve leisure and recreational opportunities for the community and promote participation in physical activity. Staff anticipate bringing contract award to the Board for decision in the coming months, with construction targeted to begin early summer 2021 and be completed by late fall 2021.



Vancouver Bird Celebration – May 8 to 16, 2021

Vancouver Bird Celebration (formerly Bird Week) celebrated its 10th anniversary from May 8-16 with a weeklong series of events to inspire a love of Vancouver's birds for all ages and abilities. This year highlighted Indigenous ways of knowing through events such as:

- [Inspired by Birds](#), a panel exploring how birds have inspired arts, stories & Indigenous language revitalization;
- [The Teachings of Birds](#), with Talaysay Tours hosting events for both Indigenous community members and the public; and
- [Coast Salish Plant Talk](#), with Squamish ethnobotanist Cease Wyss.

Vancouver Bird Celebration is organized by the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee, in partnership with the City of Vancouver and the Board of Parks and Recreation, which supports the Stanley Park Ecology Society as the coordinator of events.

Bird Celebration supports the Park Board's VanPlay, Truthtelling, Rewilding, and Biodiversity Strategies and the [Vancouver Bird Strategy](#). More information about Vancouver Bird Celebration can be found at vancouverbirdweek.ca.

VanSplash Implementation – Outdoor Pool Study

A public Request for Quote (RFQ) for consultant teams for an Outdoor Pool Study is expected to be posted within the next week. During the annual VanSplash update that the Board received on November 23, 2020, staff presented various ongoing work for aquatics, including the groundwork for an outdoor pool study. The goal of the outdoor pool study is to investigate three outdoor pool recommendations: 1) build a new outdoor pool in Mount Pleasant Park; 2) renovate the Hillcrest outdoor pool to add lane swimming; and 3) assess extending and/or all year around outdoor pools. One of the outcomes of this study will include costing for consideration in the next capital plan, as well as identifying any other studies or work needed prior to design. Staff will provide a further update in the fall.

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

- [2021 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Pilot report](#) – seeking Council approval for amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to designate certain public spaces over which the City has jurisdiction as places where liquor may be consumed. The report also outlines the approach and proposed locations for the 2021 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Pilot. This second phase pilot is an opportunity to provide continued support to local businesses and communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in light of PHO restrictions for indoor dining.
- [Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts report](#) – seeking Council approval for capital budget and funding adjustments, which will result in an increase of \$18.9 million to the 2019-2022 Capital Plan, an increase of \$26.4 million to the Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets, and no change to the current Citywide overall 2021 Capital Expenditure Budget. Council will also vote on the closeout of one capital project that was completed with surplus exceeding \$200,000.



Board Briefing Memos and Emails: April 27 to May 17, 2021

Date	Topic
Apr 30	Strathcona Park Encampment Closing Ceremony – May 1
May 3	Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive
May 4	Seaside Greenway Temporary Safety Improvements Kits Beach Park
May 4	Strathcona Park Encampment Update
May 11	Strathcona Park Encampment Update
May 12	Stanley Park Phase 1 – Temporary Bike Lane
May 13	On Water Strategy Implementation Update