



Park Board General Manager's Office Report June 21, 2021

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

Blanketing the City Mural at Cathedral Square - Opening Ceremony (Indigenous Peoples Day)

I am pleased to announce that the "Blanketing the City" mural installation at Cathedral Square Park is now complete and an opening ceremony was held this evening (National Indigenous Peoples Day). As noted in the [Board presentation](#) provided on April 26, the "[Blanketing The City](#)" project is an ongoing public art mural series and Reconciliation process designed and led by acclaimed x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam) Weaver and Graphic Designer, Debra Sparrow. For this special edition of the series, Debra collaborated with weavers Chief Janice George & Buddy Joseph (S̱ḵwx̱w̱7mesh) and Angela George (s̱əlilw̱ətaɫ) in order to create this new work that wraps the park in 7 massive murals transformed by Coast Salish weaving designs. Produced in partnership with Vancouver Mural Festival, the series boldly transmits and magnifies the visibility of x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm, S̱ḵwx̱w̱7mesh and s̱əlilw̱ətaɫ culture on their ancestral lands. Blanketing the City IV: Cathedral Square is the first semi-permanent public art collaboration between weavers from the three local nations within the past 200 years.

Sunset Beach Park Pop-up Plaza

As noted in the Board briefing memo titled "[Beach Avenue Parking Lots - Activations & Updates](#)" dated June 3, 2021, a portion of the parking lot at Sunset Beach Park has been re-purposed as a temporary pop-up plaza. This new park activation opened on June 13, and it features a bright ground mural inspired by the sunset, picnic tables with umbrellas, ping pong tables and food trucks. The pop-up plaza will create an exciting place for outdoor activities such as roller skating, dance, exercise classes, and many more already taking place informally in the space. The project also supports the important ongoing work of the West End Waterfront Master Plan by providing a hub for public engagement activities planned for mid-summer. The plaza will remain in place for 2021 and, based on the outcomes, will be assessed for continuing into 2022.

Templeton Park Track Renewal – Construction Award

As per the recommendations approved in the 2019 [Track and Field Strategy](#), this project will replace the existing track in Templeton Park with new rubberized surfacing and designated lane markings. The upgrades, funded through the approved 2019-2022 capital plan, will improve leisure and recreational opportunities for the community and promote participation in physical activity. As noted in the [May 17 GM's Report](#), staff had anticipated bringing the contract for the track renewal work to the Board for decision shortly after the Invitation to Tender closed on May 27. Six bids were received, with the winning bid coming in under the \$500K threshold that requires Board approval. As such, the contract has been awarded to Cedar Crest Lands BC Ltd. for a value of \$424,935. Construction is targeted to begin early summer 2021, with completion in late 2021. During construction, the existing track and adjacent playground will be closed to ensure public safety. Closure notifications have been posted onsite and online and include alternate options for playground and track use nearby.

Water Conservation Action Plan Update

Park Board and Engineering Water Design staff are currently working to update the [Park Board Water Conservation Action Plan](#). The primary goal of the update is to develop action items that will align with VanPlay and the City's latest bylaws and Green Operations commitments. The corporate water conservation goals for the Green Operations 2.0 Plan are to:

- 1) reduce civic potable water use by 10% by 2030;
- 2) implement a departmental user pay system; and
- 3) install more water meters and pressure reduction equipment at all City owned or controlled buildings and facilities.



Staff anticipate presenting proposed updates to the Park Board Water Conservation Action Plan in Q4 2021.

Arborist Appreciation Day (June 16)

In recognition of Arborist Appreciation Day, I want to acknowledge and thank all of our Park Board arborists for the amazing work they do maintaining our trees and forests to keep our city and parks safe and beautiful. They put their lives on the line each day and to say this profession takes skill and care would be an understatement. I would like to share a short [video of our Park Board arborists at work](#), which was created by our Communications Team. The video features a crew working on a large oak tree in Thornton Park that had been damaged. To keep it healthy and the public safe, the crew trimmed back a large section overhanging the road and sidewalk that could break off if not addressed. Special thanks to Steve, Terry, Theresa and John (the crew featured in the clip) -- the video gathered a great reaction on social media, with lots of comments praising the arborist crew and sharing anecdotes of things learned from encounters with the team.

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

- A motion titled [Towards a Quieter and Emission-Free Landscape Maintenance Equipment Future in Vancouver](#) (Previously Motion B2) directing staff to report back with recommendations to meet the goal to phase out and transition personal and commercial use of gasoline-powered landscape maintenance equipment in the City of Vancouver by 2025, giving consideration to a timeframe that is workable for residents and landscape maintenance service providers alike, and respecting the Development, Buildings & Licensing moratorium on new work, this work not begin before January 2022.
- A motion on [Pursuing Emission-Free Landscaping Equipment in the City of Vancouver](#) (Previously Motion B6) where Council, in order to provide a helpful forward-looking signal to the public, landscaping companies and other related businesses, affirm the goal of pursuing emissions-free landscaping equipment in the City of Vancouver by 2025. Council also directs staff to provide input into Metro Vancouver's draft 2021 Clean Air Plan urging Metro Vancouver's development of stringent emission regulations and requirements for landscaping equipment.
- A motion titled [Vancouver Blueway Cleanup](#) (Previously Motion B9) where the City of Vancouver, in partnership with the Park Board, is advancing a Seabin pilot through the City's Aquatic Environments Action Plan which included the False Creek Water Quality Improvement Initiative, the City (via REFM Environmental Service) and the Park Board to work collaboratively to install a Seabin in False Creek for the 2021 summer season.
- A motion on [Reconnecting to the Sto:lo \(Fraser River\)](#) (Previously Motion B10) where the Vancouver Park Board VanPlay Strategy outlines a greenway connection from Little Mountain (Queen Elizabeth Park) to Big River (Fraser River). Council is directing staff to report back on the creation of the Fraser River Inter Governmental Working Group and invited representatives should include but are not to be limited to the Musqueam Indian Band, the Port of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, CP Rail, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, TransLink and community experts.
- A report on [Downtown Eastside \(DTES\) Plan Implementation Grant Allocation – 2021](#) where one of the recommendations is that Council approve \$145,000 in strategic grant allocations to support cultural equity and women's safety initiatives in the following amounts: \$100,000 is for the Parks and Recreation Project team planning, consultation, ideation, design and cultural translation services to achieve the cultural equity objectives for Chinatown in the implementation



of the North East False Creek (NEFC) Plan; \$20,000 to the Overdose Prevention Society; and \$25,000 to the Community Impact Real Estate Society.

- A report on [Jericho Lands Planning Program – Process](#) update and consideration of draft Guiding Principles and Emerging Ideas to guide site planning – recommending Council to endorse the Jericho Lands draft Guiding Principles to provide guidance for the creation of the Jericho Lands Policy Statement.
- A report on [Hastings Park – PNE Master Plan Program: Amphitheatre Renewal](#) where Council is to direct staff to proceed to the planning and design phase of the Amphitheatre Renewal project and provide Council an update prior to construction.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: June 1 to 21, 2021

Date	Topic
June 2	Beach Avenue Parking Lots – Activations and Updates
June 11	Staff Announcement – Director of Recreation
June 13	Vandalism – Queen Victoria Monument
June 18	Outdoor Lifeguard Shortage – Board Briefing Memo