



Park Board General Manager's Office Report July 19, 2021

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

Alcohol in Parks Pilot

The 'Alcohol in Parks Pilot' launched on July 12 to the public. Leading up the launch, the Province finalized key legislative pieces to enable the Park Board the authority to run this pilot, including: passing Bill 8 amendments (May 31), the Royal Assent (July 17), and putting the Bill in force (June 30). Since the pilot launched, digital project and engagement pages were published to the public, a News Release was posted, notification letters to key stakeholders and partners were sent, and on-site signage has been installed. In terms of monitoring and site management: additional waste totes have been installed at each designated drinking site and is being serviced regularly by Engineering, Park Rangers have begun visiting each park once to multiple times daily to monitor and collect data on public behaviours, and Vancouver Police and Vancouver Coastal Health have committed to assisting data collection as it relates to public safety and health. Staff will continue to monitor public feedback (via the survey, 3-1-1, and project inbox) and site conditions throughout the duration of the pilot, and plan to present findings to the Board this fall.

Special Events Calendar

A calendar of Major Special Events, based on events that have confirmed their intention to move forward in a given year, is normally prepared during the first quarter of each year for the Board's review and approval. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and the associated public health restrictions, the vast majority of 2021 major special events were canceled rendering the Calendar unnecessary to date.

However, the introduction of Step 3 of BC's Restart Plan on July 1, 2021, has removed long-standing restrictions on large gatherings and events. The capacity limits for outdoor events are now:

- 5,000 people or 50% of capacity, whichever is greater, for seated events; and
- No restrictions on festival/flow through style events

In response to this development, Park Board staff are working closely with event community to better understand their plans and opportunities for the remainder of year. It is anticipated that this process will take several weeks as organizers determine how best to move forward with their initiatives. Park Board staff will report back in the fall as needed.

Gourmet Cabaret Cirque

The Gourmet Cabaret Cirque initiative was approved by the Board on February 22, 2021. With the phased lifting of public health restrictions relating to gatherings and events, Park Board staff have been working with the event organizer since late-May on planning for a 2021/2022 event. Unfortunately, after detailed assessments and review, it has been determined that the Gourmet Cabaret Cirque event will not be able to proceed in 2021/2022 as originally hoped due to pandemic related impacts which include potential public health restrictions later in the year, higher than expected equipment/infrastructure costs, crew visa difficulties and low investor risk tolerance and confidence. Park Board staff will now shift their focus to work with the organizer to deliver the event in 2022/2023.

Ash Park Playground Renewal

Ash Park is a 0.51-hectare neighbourhood park located at 8288 Ash Street and West 68th Avenue in Marpole. This park is one (1) of seven (7) playground renewal projects funded by the 2019 Capital

Budget and was selected based on priority ranking in the Assessment of Playspaces report, recommendations from Park Operations staff, and in response to community needs.

The new playground features a swing set with toddler seat, slides, a play structure, rope pull climber, and a wooden play hut. The project also includes picnic tables, benches, lounge chairs, bike racks and new trees. The safety surfacing is a mix of play sand, engineered wood fiber and poured in place rubber providing accessibility to the play features. The new pathways provide an accessible connection from Ash Street to the Marpole Oakridge Family Place and Marpole YMCA Child Care Centre located on Lord Street. Construction commenced in late November 2020 and the park opened in early July 2021.

Beaconsfield Park Playground Renewal

The new playground features a large climbing net, swings with an accessible harness seat, trampolines, three types of spinners, a wooden play hut and tables and chairs. The safety surfacing is a mix of sand, resilient rubber surfacing and engineered wood fibre. Additional features include new benches and picnic seating, trees, bike racks and pathways. Construction commenced in November 2020 and the playground opened in June 2021.

Winona Park Playground Renewal

Winona Park is a 5.31-hectare neighbourhood park located at 7575 Columbia Street and West 59th Avenue in Marpole. This park is one (1) of the seven (7) playground renewal projects funded by the 2019 Capital Budget and was selected based on priority ranking in the Assessment of Playspaces report, recommendations from Park Operations staff, and in response to community needs. The park includes recreational facilities such as a field house with washrooms and three sport fields.

The new playground features a swing set with a toddler and basket seat, roller slide, in-ground trampoline, a play structure, spinner/climber feature, spring rider, and sand table. The project also includes benches, picnic tables, bike racks and new trees. The safety surfacing is a mix of play sand, engineered wood fiber and poured in place rubber providing accessibility to the play features. Construction commenced at the end of January 2021 and the playground opened in early July 2021.

Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey Secondary Track and Field Upgrades – Request for Proposals

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 recommendations is to upgrade the existing track and field facility at Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey Secondary.

The existing facility is regarded as Vancouver's highest-level track and field amenity and currently hosts secondary school league meets and City championship events. The venue attracts users from across the City who utilize the amenities for training and recreational use. A number of these existing amenities are coming to the end of their lifespan and due to their poor condition are in need of improvement so they can continue to adequately service users.

A Request for Proposal process is currently underway to obtain a consultant team to lead the design development, technical design and construction administration for the facility upgrades. The project includes replacement of the existing track surfacing, upgrading existing field sport amenities, enhancement of on-site storage and seating, as well as other improvements for site accessibility and integration. These upgrades will improve recreational and training opportunities for the various school groups, running and track and field clubs and community members that frequent this facility. Staff anticipate updating the board on contract award this fall.

Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway Improvements - Engagement

Public engagement will be launching in August for the Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway Improvement project. The project will improve the Seaside Greenway for people walking, rolling, and cycling by developing a separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue, including a section within Kitsilano Beach Park.

Temporary safety improvements were installed in the park in mid May, including a protected path in the south parking lot near Cornwall Avenue, to address short-term safety concerns while work is underway on the separated cycling path.

There will be three rounds of public engagement. The first round, beginning in August, will ask park and Greenway users, residents, and businesses what is important to them regarding how they access and connect to Kitsilano Beach Park and the Seaside Greenway. The second round in the fall will ask people to evaluate different separated cycle path design options based on the values and priorities identified in round 1, and will help identify a preferred route for the path. The third round in early 2022 will help to confirm and fine-tune the preferred route.

Input from engagement will help staff develop a solution that creates a safer and more comfortable route for all users, including children, families, and people with reduced mobility while reducing conflicts between park users. Staff plan to provide an update on public engagement outcomes to the Board this fall.

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

- A Report on [Equity Framework](#) that provides background on the creation of the City of Vancouver's Equity Framework, summarizes key concepts and outlines a plan for implementation for consideration of adoption by the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Police Board and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.
- A Report on [Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Summer Intake 2021](#) recommending Council approval of seven new Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants totaling \$33,450. Applications received include two local and regional sport tournaments, two new sport initiatives and three annual sport events. The current balance of the Vancouver Community Sport Event grant budget, prior to funding these seven recommended grants, is \$129,778.
- A Report on [Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#) where one of the adjustment in the report is \$400K for deconstruction of the closed Grays Park fieldhouse/lawn bowling clubhouse that is no longer active due to structural and environmental issues. In Grays Park, there is a separate washroom building and picnic shelter that are unaffected by the demolition, so the park will continue to be serviced after removal of the fieldhouse/lawn bowling clubhouse structure. The deconstruction of this fieldhouse will be funded by reallocation from the previously approved capital budget.



Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 6 to July 19, 2021

| Date | Topic |
|---------|---|
| July 8 | CRAB Park Temporary Shelter Restrictions |
| July 19 | CRAB Park Improvements & Washroom Update |
| July 19 | Urban Forestry Watering Program - Heat Wave Impacts / Summer Irrigation |

Please note the following communications were missed from the last GM's report (will be updated)

| Date | Topic |
|---------|---|
| June 25 | Community Centre Strategy Public Engagement Launch Jun 28 |
| June 28 | Heat Wave Pop-up Spray Locations |
| June 30 | Outdoor Lifeguard Shortage – Update |
| July 2 | Outdoor Pool Study Update |