



Park Board General Manager's Office Report September 27, 2021

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

Bloedel Conservatory and VanDusen Botanical Garden

Titan Arum / Uncle Fester bloom

Park Board's Titan Arum, otherwise known as Uncle Fester, bloomed at Bloedel Conservatory on the evening of August 18, 2021. Its final height reached up to 73 inches tall and its bloom produced a stench far more powerful than its first bloom in 2018. Bloedel welcomed over 16,000 visitors to the Conservatory during the last three weeks of August. Visitors followed along Fester's entire journey online, livestream and in person. Some even travelled from different provinces to witness the event.

Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) summer Nature Camps

VBGA Nature Camps employed 15 youth from the Lower Mainland to present eight (8) weeks of summer camp (48 camp cohorts). There were 10 themes including Dirt to Dinner, Strategizing Sustainability, Wild Investigation and Radiant Rainforest. 673 kids were registered for camps over 8 weeks of summer. A survey was conducted and 203 survey respondents rated overall enjoyment of camps as 4.6/5. Seventy-five percent (75%) of survey respondents said that their child's environmental awareness increased because of our summer camps.

Bloedel Documentary

A production company called FLORB produced a short documentary on the history of Bloedel Conservatory that included the unique aspects and design of the building as well as its plant species and current ecosystems. Alex Downie, Manager of Parks Operations, led the tour and interview as he spent many years as a Supervisor of QE Park and has an incredible depth of knowledge about Bloedel. The result is an inspirational piece that is now posted on our social pages and our website and has over 7,000 views.

Stanley Park Train Update

The Stanley Park Train had a successful relaunch of the Urban Forest Train with passengers taking just over 25,000 trips this summer. This season, the train partnered with Kids Up Front, an organization that works with community groups serving children and families from a variety of demographics including Indigenous communities, newcomers to Canada, those with health barriers and low income communities. Twenty families received tickets for the Urban Forest Train and were very happy to experience the park in a new way. We are looking at expanding our support for this initiative in the future.

Ghost Train 2021 was cancelled due to ongoing coyote management work in the park. With the temporary closure of the park at night, we needed to prioritize the safety of the staff and public. Staff have redirected their focus and energy towards Bright Nights and are working with the Burn Fund to plan and deliver this year's holiday event. Planned dates are November 26 to January 2.



Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane Project

The final phase of the Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane was installed in time for the August long weekend. Staff will be launching a public survey on September 30, open for two weeks, until October 14, through Shape Your City, asking all users of Stanley Park to share their thoughts on this year's project, compared to last year, and their thoughts about the various improvements that were made.

Staff will be providing an update to the Board in November with the results of the public survey, a summary of data collected on mobility in the Park over the summer and some recommended next steps

Skateboard Amenities Strategy Pop Up at Sunset Beach

We had a successful event at Sunset Beach on August 28 and 29. Many participants signed up and hundreds passed by. There were kids' lessons, adult lessons, open skate sessions, a kids contest and a women's contest. We also hosted a Panel Discussion that included skaters from four diverse communities who covered topics such as inclusion, racism, and the value skateboard provides disenfranchised youth and adults alike. The weekend concluded on Sunday with an Indigenous dancer from the Circles Festival coming over and spontaneously performing a very energetic dance for the crowd.

Collingwood Park Renewal Request for Proposals (RFP)

Collingwood Park, a 1.27ha neighborhood park located in the Renfrew Collingwood area, is identified in the 2018-2022 Capital Plan to undergo a park renewal. Current features in the park include mature trees, a fieldhouse with washrooms, an older playground, 1950s wading pool, basketball court, open lawn areas and a baseball diamond. An RFP for consultant services, which includes supporting public engagement and developing conceptual designs through to implementation, will be publicly posted on BC Bid in October.

Subject to the receipt and approval of a qualified proponent, the public engagement for this project will begin in November of this year. It is anticipated that a conceptual design will be brought forward to the Board for decision in the spring of 2022. Anticipated improvements include replacing the playground, adding pathways, seating and new drainage, and exploring the conversion of the wading pool into a small splash pad.

Subject to budget approval, construction is targeted for summer /fall 2022

Vancouver Sport Permit Relief Fund

Sport organizations experienced a dramatic shift in their operations and services because of the changes that were necessary to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This resulted in additional financial burdens for many local sport clubs and in particular, to the aquatic and ice rental groups. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation worked collaboratively with an aim to alleviate some of financial burden by creating a one time Vancouver Sport Permit Relief Fund. Funding of \$142,933 from the Community Sport Hosting Grant was made available for distribution to offset the impact to these sport organizations.



Board of Parks and Recreation staff created qualification criteria and a formula so that all eligible groups could proportionately benefit from available funding. Forty not-for-profit child and youth based sport organizations who permitted time in pools and arenas during the Fall of 2020 were invited to apply. Sixteen applications (nine aquatic and seven arena organizations) were received and the funds were distributed to the fifteen organizations who met the qualifications.

A summary report has been prepared and will be shared with Sport Hosting staff so they may update Council on the results of the process. The successful applicants will be informed shortly.

Council Item: September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On June 23, 2021, the federal government amended the Canada Labour Code to add an additional statutory holiday, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This was [a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 80](#).

City of Vancouver exempt and unionized employees are not covered by the Canada Labour Code. However, on September 21, as a priority for their first week back in chambers after summer recess, Council passed a motion for the City to observe National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 as a paid holiday for 2021, with the approach for future years to be determined after further deliberation. City services will operate as usual for statutory holidays.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 20 to September 27, 2021

Date	Topic
Jul 22	Parking Lot Inspection Program
Jul 22	Urban Forest Climate Emergency Communications Plan
Jul 23	Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane Implementation
Aug 3	Stanley Park Fire Concerns & Temporary Overnight Closure
Aug 10	Beedie Presents Event in Stanley Park
Aug 10	Public Engagement for Community Centre Strategy
Aug 11	Outdoor Lifeguard Shortage – Management Plan
Aug 13	Metro Vancouver Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel Project Update
Aug 16	Golf Course Water Use
Aug 19	Community Engaged Arts in Andy Livingstone Park
Aug 23	Political Campaigning at City & Park Board Facilities
Aug 24	Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Park Board Facilities and Parks
Aug 25	West End Waterfront Parks Master Plan Pop Up Events

Aug 26	<u>Circles Music Concert – Andy Livingstone Park</u>
Aug 26	<u>Promontory Park - Request for Proposals for Detail Design and Construction Administration Release</u>
Sep 1	<u>Update on Provincial Announcement</u>
Sep 3	<u>Concerts in Stanley Park During Coyote Risk</u>
Sep 8	<u>All Trails Closed in Stanley Park</u>
Sep 9	<u>CRAB Park Update</u>
Sep 9	<u>Cancellation of Halloween Events</u>
Sep 15	<u>CRAB Park Update</u>
Sep 16	<u>Air Force Garden of Remembrance Relocation Project Advisory Group</u>
Sep 22	<u>Alberta Street Blue-Green System & Columbia Park Renewal Engagement</u>
Sep 24	<u>Lost Lagoon Carp</u>
Sep 24	<u>People Parks and Dogs Strategy Implementation Engagement</u>