



## **Park Board General Manager's Office Report October 18, 2021**

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

### **Day Camps**

Community Center Associations (CCA's) run full day camps at 22 sites across the city. These CCA programs provide critical care for children over the summer, providing a safe and trusted resource. These camps exemplify the valuable partnership between the Park Board and Community Center Associations. For those that need extra support, they can access funded spots through the Leisure Access Program as well as subsidies provided by individual CCA's.

The day camp program provides building blocks for youth engagement and development. These programs are the precursor to the preteen leadership camps where the focus shifts to leadership training and development. Many of the day camp participants continue on to become day camp leaders, and ultimately find future employment opportunities within the Board of Parks and Recreation.

A great example of Park Board and CCA partnership is demonstrated through day camp staff training. Leader training is organized by the Day Camp Committee (a group of citywide programmers and youth workers) to ensure consistent training opportunities for all the programs offered across the 22 sites. Staff leveraged resources through the British Columbia Parks & Recreation Association (BCRPA) to subsidize the training camp for CCA day camp leaders.

Building off the success of the Vancouver School Board (VSB) referral pilot from 2020, this past summer enrollment for students who required additional support reached 240 participants.

2021 by the numbers:

- 8,144 enrollments;
- 22 day camps (excludes specialty licensed); and
- 119 supported spots.

### **Summer Playgrounds**

Twenty playground programs ran this summer from the first week of July to the end of August, operated by thirteen community centres. Eleven operate on the east side, and two operate on the west side.

Children and youth play table tennis, box hockey and participate in art and/or music activities and games. Playground users also use sports equipment to play basketball and outdoor hockey/soccer. Highlights include frozen tag, four square, popsicle stick creations, as well as creating masks and headbands.

This summer 53 auxiliary leaders provided engagement opportunities at the twenty playground programs.

### **Strathcona Park Update**

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has removed the remaining fences to re-open the east side of Strathcona Park. This park is integral to the community and we are pleased that this will once again be a space to socialize and connect with one another. A lot has happened at Strathcona Park hence staff have worked closely with Indigenous and community partners to ensure extra care was provided to "treat the land".



While the east side of the park was initially closed for remediation in May 2021 following the closure of an encampment onsite, the west side has always remained open. Remediation work was a large undertaking and the team has delivered a remarkable space back to the all community members and partners.

Park Board staff will continue to work with community partners on expanding programming at Strathcona Park, while also supporting community-led gatherings and activities to bring communities together and welcome people back to the park

The all-weather sports field at Strathcona Park will also reopen for registered activities shortly. Patrons can now book for sessions beginning in November.

### **Vancouver Urban Food Forest in Burrard View Park - Engagement Update**

On March 8 and 9, 2021, the Board heard a presentation and speakers on the Burrard View Garden. The result of the meeting was a referral back to staff to explore alternative locations for the garden within Burrard View Park. Staff have prepared alternatives and Shape Your City page, which will be live from November 18 to December 6, will collect public feedback on the location of the garden. There is also a tentative in-person event in the park on Saturday, November 20. The information collected will inform a subsequent report to the Board in the New Year.

### **New Staff Announcement – John Brodie, Director of Strategic Operations & Board Relations**

I am happy to announce that John Brodie, (he/him) is the successful candidate for the TFT role of Director, Strategic Operations and Board Relations for the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation while Sarah Iacoe is on maternity leave.

As Director, John will be responsible for providing leadership to the Executive Office and Board Relations, Administrative and Support Services and Strategic Initiatives teams and will report to General Manager Donnie Rosa.

John is coming to the Park Board from the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) where he served as Senior Manager, Strategic Projects and led the planning and implementation of the long-term vision to renew facilities, expand and upgrade park and open spaces, and implement utility infrastructure as part of the Hastings Park/PNE Master Plan. In this role he also managed the capital planning and budgeting process and delivered corporate transformation programs working closely with the PNE Board and the City Leadership Team over his tenure.

John's professional experience includes over 16 years of project/program strategy and delivery of complex initiatives across a variety of industries. Prior to his time at the PNE, John worked for the City's Business Planning and Project Support team where he led transformation initiatives within Engineering Services to develop a new project management framework and establish an organizational quality management program.

His previous experience includes leading capital and corporate transformation projects for SNC-Lavalin, ICBC, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Lockheed Martin. John has a bachelor's degree in Politics & Government and is a certified project management professional (PMP).

John lives in Vancouver with his wife and three kids. Together, they spend many days and most weekends at one of the Park Board's beautiful parks or recreational facilities. John enjoys coaching his



kids' soccer, baseball and softball teams throughout the year and is excited to be part of the Park Board team that helps make Vancouver a great place to live.

Please join me in warmly welcoming John to the Park Board family! His first day is October 12<sup>th</sup> which will allow us a few weeks of handover together prior to the start of my maternity leave.

### **Mandatory Vaccination Requirement**

Effective December 6, 2021 all City of Vancouver employees are required to be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine series. Staff were notified of this requirement earlier today (Monday October 18, 2021).

This policy takes into account the overwhelming evidence that vaccines are the best defense against the COVID-19 virus. This also aligns to:

- the recent announcement from the Province requiring all Public Sector employees are vaccinated;
- messaging from the Provincial Health Office encouraging large employers to implement a mandatory vaccine requirement for staff; and
- those large employers who have announced vaccine mandates (i.e. PAVCO, BC Hydro, Translink, and others).

This City is in the process of developing a Policy for this mandate, and information will be broadly circulated as it is available.

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

- A report on [Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#) requesting Council approval of \$12.1 million increase to Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets (funded from Urban Sustainability Directors Network Grant external funding and 2019-2022 Capital Plan). Expenditures in 2021 relating to the increases to Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets will be managed within the current overall Citywide 2021 Capital Expenditure Budget of \$770.7 million. A total of 19 projects/programs were completed in the second quarter of 2021, with an overall net surplus of approximately \$0.58 million. This report also requests Council approval for the closeout of one capital program that was completed with a surplus exceeding \$200,000. This report also provides for Council information a summary of capital projects that were closed in the third quarter of 2021 that were funded from voter-approved capital funding.
- A report on [The Future of False Creek South: Advancing a Conceptual Development Plan and Addressing Lease Expiries](#). The Park Board General Manager along with the General Manager of Engineering, Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS), Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management (FRS) and other key departments would be providing significant input through the proposed land use planning process.



**Board Briefing Memos and Emails: September 28 to October 18, 2021**

Date	Topic
Oct 1	<a href="#">CRAB Park GM Orders Legal Petition</a>
Oct 1	<a href="#">Park Board In Person Meetings – COVID-19 Protocols</a>
Oct 4	<a href="#">Nine O’Clock Gun</a>
Oct 12	<a href="#">False Creek South Council Report</a>
Oct 12	<a href="#">Update on CRAB Park</a>