

# CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021 Year in Review

Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, January 24, 2022  
(deferred from December 13, 2021)



# Chair's Annual Report - 2021

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With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, housing crisis, opioid crisis, and climate emergency, 2021 has proven to be yet another unusual and challenging year.

Despite this, the Park Board Commissioners and staff have continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability in their commitment to providing safe, clean and welcoming parks and recreation spaces to all.

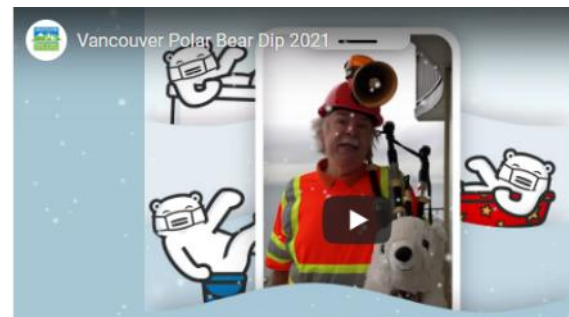
The following report is intended to highlight some of the Park Board's work over the past year.

# Pandemic Response & Restart





# 101<sup>st</sup> Polar Bear Swim Goes Virtual



# COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

- Park Board hosted pop-up vaccination clinics at multiple locations, including Creekside, Sunset and West End Community Centres, and the Kerrisdale Seniors Centre.



# Lifeguard Shortages

- New staffing approaches implemented to minimize impacts and closures at Vancouver pools and beaches due to national lifeguard shortages



# Electronic Board Meetings – Procedure By-law Updates



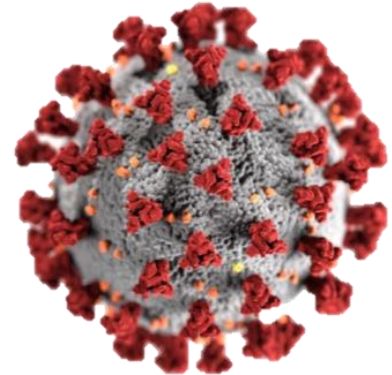
- New Procedure By-laws were enacted to allow for both speakers and Commissioners to participate remotely, adding flexibility and removing barriers to access.



# Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy



- New policy introduced making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for all employees;
- In support, the Board unanimously approved a motion confirming all Commissioners are fully vaccinated and will voluntarily follow the staff policy & public health advice.





# Festival of Lights & Bright Nights

- These popular holiday events offering in-person experiences this year, with extra COVID-19 safety protocols in place to protect visitors and staff.



# Challenges & Opportunities



# Stanley Park Coyotes & Feeding Wildlife By-Law Updates



- Board enacted by-law amendments to clarify that feeding wildlife, either directly or indirectly, is prohibited in Vancouver parks, and offences may be subject to fines of \$500. These by-laws will support ongoing efforts to foster healthy co-existence with urban wildlife.





## Homelessness in Parks

- Park Board signed MOU with Province and City; shared commitment to bring Strathcona Park encampment to a close and prevent future encampments by connecting unsheltered residents to housing that preserves their dignity, respects the need for culturally-appropriate services for Indigenous people, and considers the needs of the surrounding community.





# Extreme Weather Events

- Park Board responded to several extreme weather events: winter storms and king tides causing seawall and shoreline damage; a record-breaking heat dome putting residents at risk, an extended heat wave and drought followed by heavy rains impacting the urban forest, and atmospheric rivers causing flooding.

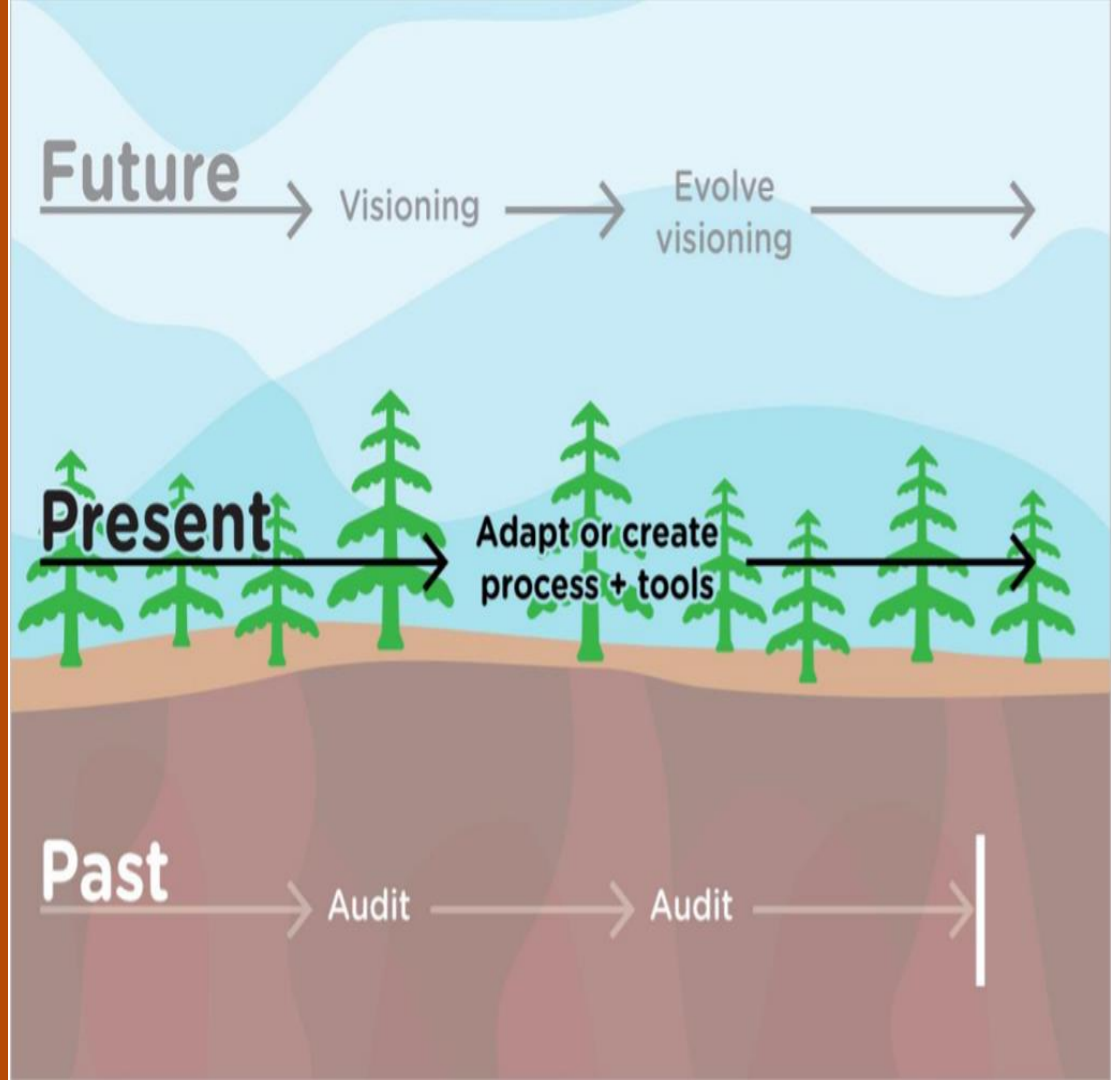


## Park Ranger Service Model

- The Board endorsed increasing the Ranger's full-time staff complement; directed staff to report back with mandate for new enhanced by-law enforcement positions and to seek additional funding through the 2022 Service Planning and Budget Process.



# Decolonization, Arts & Culture



## Decolonization, Arts and Culture

- New DAC team supports reciprocal learning through a decolonizing lens; demonstrates a decolonized relationship with land, community, and cultural practice;
- Board received a Colonial Audit update and highlights of events and activations applying a decolonization and reconciliation lens.





# Strategic Plans & Capital Projects



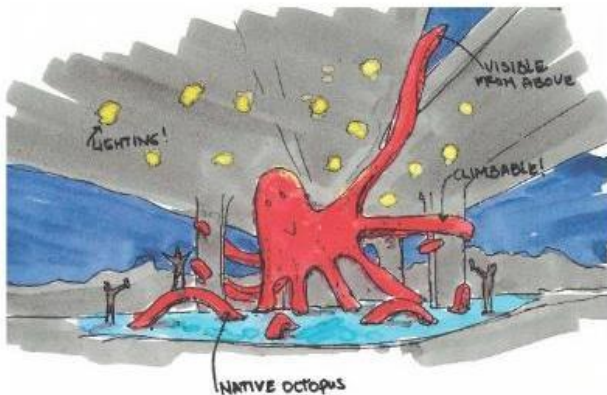
## East Fraser Lands New Park

- Board approved the concept design for new park in East Fraser Lands; part of the 10+ hectares of parks planned for the area.



# Coopers' Park Expansion & Renewal

- Board approved the concept plan for Coopers' Park; includes a design for a Pacific Northwest themed fitness area to support calisthenics and parkour exercises, a new play-space, a renewed off-leash dog area, and the installation of a new single use washroom.





# Playground Renewal Projects

- Several park playground renewal projects were completed this year, including those at Brewers, Ash, Beaconsfield and Winona Parks.





# VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan



- Board unanimously approved the strategic plan developed collaboratively with the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA).



# Local Food Systems Action Plan

- Board approved new Local Food Systems Action Plan; includes an ambitious five-year implementation plan.



# VanSplash Implementation Update & Outdoor Pool Study



- Board received a VanSplash implementation update; included an overview of the outdoor pool study findings with funding needs for the Hillcrest and Mount Pleasant outdoor pools.





# Pilot Initiatives





## Low Intensity Turf Maintenance (Meadow Pilot)

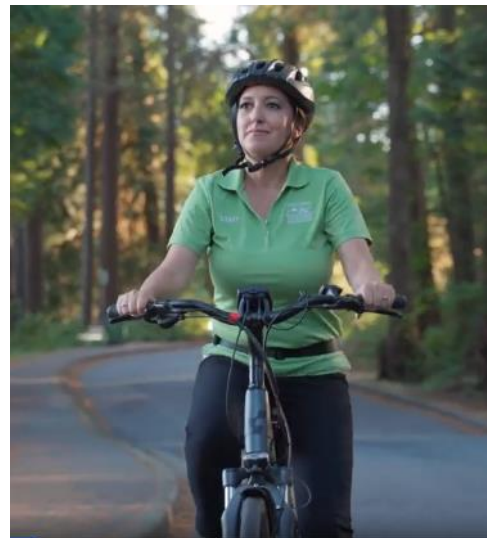
- Board approved expanding low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management to 42 hectares by 2030.



## Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive



- In recognition of the Climate Emergency, increased bike use, and ongoing Stanley Park Mobility Study, the Board directed staff to implement a temporary bike lane in Stanley Park on Park Drive; bike lane extended until study is complete.



## Alcohol in Parks Pilot

- The Board enacted new Park By-laws allowing the Alcohol in Parks Pilot approved in July 2020 to proceed; pilot included 22 sites, running from July to mid-October.





