



Park Board General Manager's Office Report

January 24, 2022

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

Extreme Weather Response – Recreation Services

Extreme weather occurred in December 2021 impacting a number of operations across the Park Board, including Warming Centres, Ice Guarding and Monitoring, and Bright Nights at Stanley Park.

Warming Centres

The City, through Arts, Culture, and Community Services, ensures all residents have a safe place to come inside during cold winter months and extreme weather. The approach includes a variety of winter only responses, including temporary shelters, Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelters and Warming Centres. When the weather is extreme, EWR shelters open at 0°C and Warming Centres open at -5°C (and other extreme conditions). Warming Centres are operated entirely by the City as a life saving measure. Working with our CCA partners, West End Community Centre was identified as a Warming Centre to support this citywide response and activated December 24 to January 7.

Ice Guarding & Monitoring

With the heavy rains and then freezing temperatures in December, a number of water bodies were partially frozen across the City. In response, ice monitoring commenced December 26, 2021 with daily measurements taken until January 7, 2022 when temperatures rose and the ice disappeared. Ice Guarding was in place December 29, 2021 through January 7, 2022 at Lost Lagoon and Trout Lake, where depth of water beneath ice provides greatest risk. During the monitoring period ice thickness measured 4.5 inches at the peak thickness. Ice needs to reach a thickness of 7 - 8 inches for safe public access. Lifeguards, Rangers and VPD were on site to provide education and direction reinforcing signage outlining the risk of going onto the partially frozen water bodies.

Extreme Weather Response – Special Events and Destination Parks

Bright Nights in Stanley Park

During the extreme weather, event equipment, including tents, was damaged by heavy rain. Icy pathways outside train area were causing slip and fall hazards for event guests. Extreme cold affected train track and contributed to a derailment on Boxing Day, damaging the train and carriage. Bright Nights temporarily closed for four days; refunds were provided to all ticketholders. Guests were unable to travel from areas affected by highway closures due to flooding damage; before event was suspended, guests also requested refunds due to extreme cold weather. Heavy snowfall had impacts on staff ability to get to work, particularly those who rely on transit.

VanDusen Festival of Lights

Extreme weather conditions throughout the last 2 weeks of December made it challenging for operation crews to keep up with snow and ice removal needs. The Visitor Centre's sprinkler system pipes burst on December 27. The snow conditions on two other evenings caused closures of the event. On January 5, VanDusen had to close due to fallen and failed trees. It was reopened on January 15.



Queen Elizabeth Park

Over a dozen trees have fallen and there is a large amount of failed mature trees spread across the park. Park Operations has cordoned off areas in the park that are hazardous to the public and Urban Forestry has assessed the damage and will be sending a crew to prioritize maintenance of work.

Staff Appreciation

The past year was undoubtedly a challenging one and those challenges did not let up for our staff teams as many looked to wind down the year. While many were able to enjoy a break over the holiday season, a number of our staff continued to support our critical services day in and day out. With extreme weather events, and updated provincial health orders many staff stepped up, deferring well-deserved vacation and time with family to ensure that our most critical services could continue to be delivered to Vancouver's residents. The commitment of our teams are most evident during the most challenging of times, and on behalf of myself and the entire Leadership Team and the Board of Parks and Recreation we are incredibly proud of this commitment.

Upcoming Council Business (related to or impacting Parks & Recreation):

- A motion titled "[Towards a Quieter and Emission-Free Landscape Maintenance Equipment Future in Vancouver](#)" 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 2024, giving consideration to a timeframe that is workable for residents and landscape maintenance service providers alike.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: December 14, 2021 to January 24, 2022

Date	Topic
Dec 10	2022 Budget Adjustments
Dec 17	2023 - 2026 Capital Plan Process
Dec 17	On Water Strategy Implementation Update
Dec 22	Updated Public Health Orders
Dec 23	Warming Centres at Park Board Facilities
Dec 30	Extreme Weather Response
Dec 30	Skating on Frozen Ponds/Lakes
Jan 4	Fire at Queen Elizabeth Park – Service Yard
Jan 6	Update – Queen Elizabeth Service Yard Fire
Jan 14	Seawall Damage
Jan 20	Community Centre Strategy – Second Engagement Phase