



COYOTE MANAGEMENT IN STANLEY PARK

Proactive steps toward
co-existence

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2022



- The purpose of the presentation is to:
 - Offer background and brief on the efforts to date to address coyote aggression in Stanley Park
 - Rationale for actions
 - Next steps



RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.

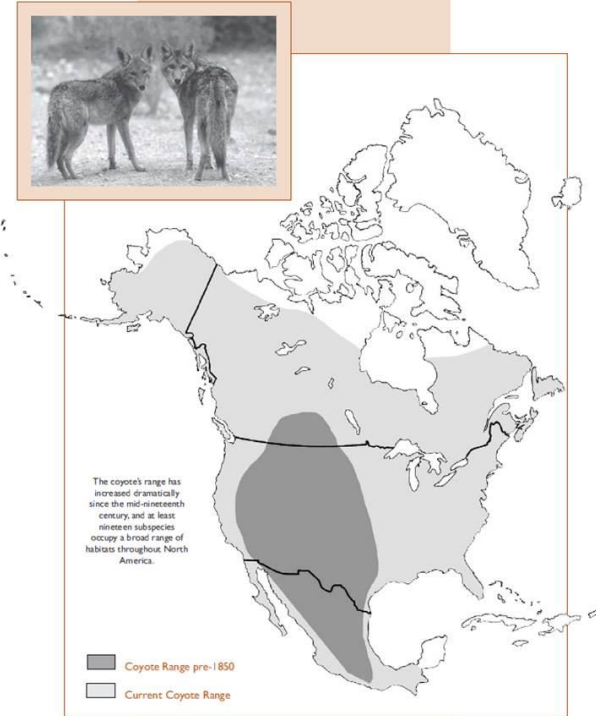


LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



- Coyotes established in Vancouver around the 1980s.
- Present in all North American urban areas
- A coyote sighting in itself is not cause for concern
- Actions described in this presentation are necessary for co-existence
- Effectively co-existing means no aggressive behaviour, humans and coyotes share spaces peacefully



- 45 coyote bite incidents and other reports of aggression between December 2020 and September 2021.
- Unprecedented number of incidents compared to any urban area in North America
- Response included ongoing communication, monitoring, eventual closure of the park, and removal of a total of 11 animals by province
- Collaboration with internal and external partners on immediate response and future action planning
- Identified need for ongoing proactive management

- Top contributing factor is access to food:
 - Unintentional feeding (coyotes or prey accessing waste bins or food waste on ground)
 - Intentional feeding (by hand or leaving food on the ground, even if intended for other animals)
- Pandemic shift in park use
- Gaps in education and enforcement



- Several elements:
 - Encouraging City Sanitation to retrofit or replace waste bins to prevent wildlife access
 - Monitoring bins for proper human use and animal accessibility
 - Monitoring concession and picnic areas for food waste on the ground
 - Monitoring popular areas for feeding, issuing warnings and tickets

Attractant Management: Direct and Indirect Feeding



Photo credit: Paige Goulay



Photo credit: Park Board staff

- By-law Update facilitates improved enforcement
- Essential step to curb purposeful feeding, common in popular areas like Beaver Lake and Lost Lagoon
- Conservation Officers Service supports in instances where coyotes (dangerous wildlife) directly involved, or intentional feeding

- Proactive, permanent signage
 - What to do, who to call
- Temporary breeding season signage
 - Trail closures near known denning or high activity sites
- Key info shared by SPES, Rangers in high traffic/incident areas like Prospect Point, Concessions, Aquarium



- A humane way to manage bold coyotes
- Involves using loud, confident, assertive actions to remind coyotes to maintain physical distance from humans
- Programs being tested in other jurisdictions offer adaptable actions:
 - Patrols of park (Trained volunteers, Modified duty staff)
 - Take assertive action when coyote approaches within 40 m
 - Record observations to inform program modifications

- GOALS:
 - Avoid developing patterns of aggressive behaviour in new coyote population
 - Establish healthy behavioural boundaries for co-existence
- Conceived and planned in collaboration with FLNRORD staff, FLNRORD Science Committee members, SPES, PB Planning staff
- Aim to have boots on the ground in March to stay ahead of population increase with breeding season





1. Continue advancing waste bin retrofits and monitoring with Sanitation
2. Increase enforcement presence
3. Prepare and share educational materials and signage in Feb/March
4. Recruit and train Aversion Conditioning volunteers and staff for March kick off
5. Dedicate staff to removing intentionally placed food (bird seed, kibble, etc.)

