



Park Board General Manager's Office Report April 11, 2022

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

New Director of Urban Relationships – Betty Lepps

Please join me in welcoming Betty Lepps (she/her) to the Board of Parks and Recreation team as the Director of Urban Relationships starting today, April 11, 2022.

Elizabeth (Betty) Lepps, Dip SW, M.A. Leadership, joins us from BC Housing as the Regional Director of Supportive Housing/Shelters where she was instrumental in co-leading the housing of over 280 folks from Strathcona Park in partnership with Parks & Recreation and ACCS staff.

Effectively working with over 100 programs and 50+ non-profits that provide services to the most vulnerable, equity denied folks in the Vancouver Coastal area, Betty was sought out for a keynote presentation on “Human Rights and Encampments” at the BC Non-Profit Housing Association. Her work on various committees towards systemic change with vulnerable populations is highly lauded at the municipal, ministerial, community and national levels and we are excited for her to bring this lens to our already contemplative assessment of our systems at the Park Board. Betty worked with many Indigenous communities across Canada and the USA to provide family/community-based training in collaboration with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and key community members to ensure that traditions were upheld, and their families protected. She was also instrumental in developing the first restorative justice court in Calgary.

Betty earned her Master of Arts in Leadership from Royal Roads University and has formal education in Childcare Leadership (Mount Royal University), Social Work (Mount Royal College) and Early Childhood Education (Mount Royal College). She is also a published author “Diversifying Diversity”, Part 2, Foundation Magazine and participated in the “Critical Thinking and Academic Writing” program at Royal Roads University. Betty was hand-selected by research professor, lecturer, author and podcast host Brené Brown as one of only 320 people globally accepted to her facilitator-training program.

Betty brings a plethora of experience in policy development and leadership to our team, combined with a compassionate approach to working with community. She is a strong organizer and communicator and knows the importance of relationship building and teamwork.

Leisure Access Program – Playland Pass Discounts

The Access & Inclusion team is excited to announce an addition to the Leisure Access Program for this summer. Starting in June, Playland will be offering an Unlimited 50% Discount as a Leisure Access Program benefit. From June 4 to August 19, Leisure Access participants can simply bring their OneCard and photo ID to the Will Call booth at Hastings and Windermere to receive their discounted tickets. The 50% discount only applies to the Playland amusement park – the PNE and other events at Hastings Park are excluded from this benefit.

Oppenheimer Park - Fieldhouse and Playground Reopening

The Oppenheimer Park fieldhouse and playground are expected to open by the end of April, 2022. Following the decampment in May 2020, Oppenheimer Park was closed and park restoration work commenced. The western portion of the park was reopened to the public in June 2021. The eastern portion of the park including the fieldhouse and playground remain closed due to ongoing repair work.



Real Estate and Facilities Management staff are expecting fieldhouse repairs to be completed in mid to late April 2022. Park Board staff have been coordinating with City staff to make the playground useable on an interim basis, and align with the reopening of the fieldhouse. One trailer will be relocated near the field house to continue the Washroom Monitoring Program. The funding for the program by Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Program is extended till March 2023 and the local not-for-profit organization, Atira Women's Society, staff will monitor the playground and the medicinal garden as well. Other temporary trailers will be removed after the field house opening. Staff will continue to work on a full playground renewal plan, targeted for implementation in 2023.

Jericho Beach Rabbits

With Easter this coming weekend, the Park Board Communications Team will be sharing a few reminders over social media regarding the Jericho Beach rabbit population. While these animals are very cute, they pose a threat to local native wildlife and the public:

- Don't release domestic bunnies into the park. The Jericho Beach bunnies are an invasive species colony and started as domestic pets that were released into the wild. Invasive species can damage the environment, carry diseases, and threaten biodiversity. Domestic bunnies released in the wild also struggle to survive, and often become malnourished and are at risk of traffic accidents, predators and diseases.
- Don't try to touch or pick up wild bunnies as they can bite and scratch and are known to carry diseases and parasites like ticks.
- Don't feed wild bunnies. Feeding wildlife is illegal across all Vancouver parks and beaches as it can result in animals becoming dependent on humans for food and more vulnerable to predators.

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

Council to receive a report on [Wildlife Feeding Regulation](#) recommending Council to approve in principle a new Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law to prohibit people from feeding or attempting to feed wildlife from providing, leaving or placing attractants on any property in a manner that attracts or could attract wildlife.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: March 28 to April 11, 2022

Date	Topic
Apr 5	Northeast False Creek Plan Implementation
Apr 6	CRAB Park Remediation and Encampment Relocation
Apr 9	Heather Lands Rezoning
Apr 9	2023-2026 Capital Plan – Council Workshop Questions