



Park Board General Manager's Report July 4, 2022

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

Oxford Park Indigenous Garden

As part of the Park Board's Neighbourhood Match Fund program a small Indigenous garden was implemented in Oxford Park this past June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day. The Park Board's Neighbourhood Matching Fund provides support for community groups to build community and neighbourhood connections while enhancing parks or other public spaces.

Staff facilitated necessary approvals and logistics and, in June 2022, the garden was implemented (as per the Local Food System Action Plan gardens under 250m² do not require Board approval). The garden will be managed and programmed by the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation, Indigenous program coordinator Leona Brown, the Aboriginal Mother's Centre Society, and others. The garden will offer a space of learning, healing, and cultural experience for those who visit the space, and will improve biodiversity and access to nature and good in an area identified as high priority for increased food assets. There will be an opening celebration on July 10 to name the garden with local Indigenous elders.

New Park at Burrard Slopes

A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in August seeking consultant services to support public engagement and the development of a concept design for the new park in Burrard Slopes. The scope of the new park extends from 5th Ave to 6th Ave between Pine Street and Fir Street and includes the pop-up park at 5th Ave and Pine Street. It also includes the integration of the existing park at 6th Ave and Fir St which was built in 2015. Pending identification of a successful design team the first round of public engagement is expected to launch in spring 2023. Removal of the existing buildings on site is being managed by Real Estate and Facilities Management and is expected to advance later this year. The 2023-2026 Capital Plan includes \$12.0M to fund construction of the new park.

Show of Support to Ukraine - Sunflowers at City Hall & Park Board Administration Building

Sunflowers have been planted at City Hall and the Park Board administration building as a show of support for Ukraine during the ongoing war. Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine, are often a symbol of peace, and are a major agricultural export of the country. The flowers planted at these City sites are expected to bloom this August.

South Memorial Pond Update

In 2019, Park staff completed dredging work, which included removal of invasive species, and placement of a rock framework around the pond. The rocks were placed to prevent sloughing of the ponds banks. South Memorial Pond does not have a liner, and the water levels are maintained by a weir. A weir is a small barrier, essentially a small-scale dam. Weirs allow water to pool behind them, while allowing water to flow steadily over top of the weir in order to maintain a pre-set level.

Staff completed an inspection of the weir and discovered a gap between the weir and the base of the pond, requiring replacement of the weir. Once the weir was replaced, staff contacted Engineering to seek approval to fill the pond and test the ponds ability to retain its' water levels. We were approved to fill and test the water levels with the repairs completed.

Park staff will continue monitoring the water levels over the next two (2) months to determine if the water loss was primarily caused by the failing weir mechanism, or other factors. All collected information will be provided to the Park Planning Team for review, and the Board will be receiving report back in the first quarter of 2023.



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

Council to receive a report on the [Vancouver Plan](#) on July 6, 2022. This plan is a long-range, city-wide plan to guide growth and change in the city.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: June 21 to July 4, 2022

| Date | Topic |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 23 | Killarney Track and Field Training Facility |
| June 27 | Low Intensity Turf Maintenance (Meadow) Project |
| June 29 | Grays Park Clubhouse Deconstruction Update |
| June 30 | Alcohol Consumption at Parks & Beaches |