



MOTION on NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on July 4, 2022

Vancouver Park Board's Approach to Climate Change

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. Significant policy work has been done on a global scale by the [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), but much of this work will need to be implemented on more local scales.
2. In January 2019, the City of Vancouver became one of the first cities in the world to declare a Climate Emergency. This declaration was in direct response to the landmark IPCC report released in the fall of 2018 calling for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
3. The City of Vancouver passed a Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2020, and in November 2021, approved recommendations presented in the [Big Move 6 \(BM6\) – Natural Climate Solutions](#) report that focussed on carbon sequestration targets. Many of the projects referenced in the BM6 report, such as urban forest expansion, Lost Lagoon rehabilitation, and the expansion of naturally managed areas, will be led by Park Board staff. Other relevant Big Moves include Transportation and Buildings, but an action plan specific to the necessary changes to Park Board service delivery has not yet been developed.
4. The Park Board manages extensive municipal lands, facilities, and tree canopy within Vancouver. It is also responsible for significant capital and operational budgeting and spending. Connection to Nature and Equity are two key themes of [VanPlay](#) (2020), and the Board is well-placed for institutional leadership in the climate realm, with potential replicability for other jurisdictions.
5. As evidenced by sea level rise and coastal park damage experienced by recent extreme weather events, such as the king tide and winter storms that occurred this past winter, parks and recreation specific climate adaptation will be key to future planning. The endorsed Capital Plan (2023-2026) identifies and allocates 15.5M to address coastal adaptation planning and implementation, among other initiatives in response to climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to conduct an audit, informed by the most recent climate science, of existing parks and recreation capital projects and operational systems with the aim to adapt them through the lens of GHG reduction and climate change mitigation; and that staff prioritize this work by redirecting existing resources and/or by seeking funding for additional resources through the next budget process.



- B. THAT the Park Board direct staff to prioritize, accelerate and consider expansion of any projects currently on record that aim to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation actions for the organization, reassess projects that do not, and report back to the Board with recommendations.
- C. THAT staff include a “Climate Considerations” section in all Park Board reports to ensure that the climate emergency lens is applied to all future projects and initiatives.
- D. THAT Park Board staff develop a climate change mitigation and adaptation dashboard that can track the progress of the adaption of parks and recreation capital projects and operational systems, and that this information be reported to the Board annually.