



Park Board General Manager's Report July 20, 2022

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

'Doing it for Love' Video Series

The Decolonization, Arts and Culture team is pleased to announce that the video series 'Doing it for Love: Five Stories from Creative Communities in a Global Pandemic' is now publicly available on the [Park Board YouTube channel](#).

Originated by the Arts, Culture and Engagement team, and filmed and edited by artist Israel Seoane, this short documentary series highlights artists and communities who pivoted their work together during the COVID pandemic to stay creative and connected while physically apart. This remarkable 'time capsule' captures the creativity, resilience and richness of artists and community working together through difficult times.

The five short video portraits include:

- Echo Park North Film Collective at Moberly Park Field House
- Cedar Bark Hat Weaving at Britannia Community Centre | Arts & Health: Healthy Aging Through the Arts
- Collaborative Creative Dance for Older Adults at Aberthau/West Point Grey and Jericho Park
- Vines Arts Festival at Pandora Park Field House
- Stillmoon Arts Society at Slokan Park Field House

The series launched with a public celebration in the fall of 2021 and staff are pleased to share it with the world online.

Pop-up Indoor Skateboard Park at Hillcrest Community Centre

On behalf of Recreation's Citywide Services and Access & Inclusion teams, and Park Planning and Development, staff are pleased to share an update on the temporary indoor skateboarding space at Hillcrest Centre on the dry floor in the Vancouver Curling Club

People of all ages and abilities can escape the rain or summer heat from Saturday, July 2 to Friday, August 12 2022, and learn to skate, practice new tricks, and have fun with new friends indoors. The Green Ramp, a mini-ramp managed by the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition, is currently set up for indoor use for the duration of the program in addition to several other features. Staff are on-site to provide lessons and ensure the safety of skaters.

In addition to the drop-in skateboarding sessions, the Park Board has teamed up with Spectrum Skateboard Society to provide skateboard lessons for neurodivergent children and youth. As the name suggests, Spectrum specializes in programming for children on the autism spectrum, but is welcoming children of all abilities for their skate programs at Hillcrest, and therefore, no proof of diagnosis is required for registration.

This programming is the first of the quick wins identified in [CitySkate](#) to be implemented. To date, the skate community is very excited about this addition to the limited inventory of indoor skate amenities, and thus presenting a good opportunity to test these indoor spaces for future skateboard programming.



More information about daily drop-in times and Spectrum's lessons is available on vancouver.ca and on ActiveNet.

Champlain Heights Playground Renewal

Construction will begin in September on a new playground at Champlain Heights Community Centre. Located on the south side of the community centre, the playground includes slides, swings, resilient surfacing, trampolines, shade structure, seating areas and water play. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2023.

Staff held two rounds of public engagement for the Champlain Heights playground renewal. Respondents chose to relocate the playground to the south side of the community centre where it can accommodate a larger footprint in order to meet the community's needs. Staff also engaged with representatives of the Champlain Heights Community Association (CHCA) who provided feedback and comments on the proposed design. This feedback was incorporated into the final playground design.

Once the new playground is built, staff will work with the CHCA to support needed upgrades to the existing playground located on the east side of the community centre which currently serves the daycare.

Vancouver Pride Parade and Festival

This year, the Park Board is pleased to once again be participating in the Vancouver Pride Parade and Festival on July 31. The event theme this year is "Together Again" and is meant to highlight the excitement and importance of 2SLGBTQAI+ communities taking up space and gathering for in-person, community-focused events once more.

Park Board Commissioners and staff will be showing their pride with a special heart and daisy themed parade entry in honour of Daisy Chin, the much loved Director of Recreation who led with her heart and soul -- a champion of community, teamwork, diversity, and acceptance. Daisy passed away last year and is deeply missed by her Park Board family. The parade starts at 12pm on Robson Street, and then follows Denman Street to Beach Avenue before wrapping up at the Sunset Beach Festival, which runs from 11am to 6pm. Recreation programming staff will be at the Park Board festival booth to answer questions, share 2SLGBTQAI+ program information, and seek ideas from the community.

The Vancouver Park Board is proud to serve Vancouver's 2SLGBTQIA+ community year-round, working to ensure everyone has access to safe activities, programs, and social opportunities at all of recreation facilities, beaches and parks.

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

Council will reconvene on July 22 to continue debate and discussion on the [Vancouver Plan](#) from July 6, 2022. This plan is a long-range, city-wide plan to guide growth and change in the city.

Council to receive a report on the [2030 Winter Games Bid Update](#), where they will decide whether to advance the City's participation in the Indigenous-led bid for the 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games as a Host City.

[Skeena Terrace Policy Statement](#) was approved by Council on July 19. This policy will guide the redevelopment of a social housing site owned by BC Housing, next to Thunderbird Community Centre (TCC). Existing residents of Skeena Terrace have been supported for years by a wide range of programming both at TCC located across the street, and by community centre staff on the site



itself. Park Board Planning staff were involved throughout the process of creating the policy statement, working collaboratively with City staff and bringing the importance of the community centre, existing trees and green space to the proponent through design workshops. The redevelopment, as outlined in this policy statement, will include a new 5000 square foot amenity centre to replace and expand on existing space in programming partnership with TCC. Publicly accessible open spaces, shared gardens, and play spaces are woven throughout the development to meet community needs. This landscape will be built around protected mature trees and new biodiverse natural areas that will connect to the Still Creek watershed.

Council will receive the first phase of the City's [Accessibility Strategy](#) for approval. This report includes policy directions, goals and objectives that focus the city's support for persons with disabilities.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 5 to 18, 2022

Date	Topic
July 6	Park Ranger Service Model Review RFP
July 6	Beach Logs Update
July 17	PB Staff to Maintain All Parks Motion Report Back