



## **Park Board General Manager's Report February 13, 2023**

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

### **VanDusen Botanical Gardens Festival of Lights 2022**

Every year, 15 acres of VanDusen Botanical Garden becomes a winter wonderland when it is lit up with over one million lights throughout the holiday season. Public feedback from the event was exceptional this year with compliments such as: "The lights, themes, colours, size of event, and the creativity were the best ever and absolutely magical! Thank you for your hard work. We are privileged to have such an event in Vancouver!" Despite the snow and extreme winter conditions, our Park Board staff, including gardeners, cashiers, building support workers and operations workers, worked tirelessly to keep our doors open to the public in order for them to experience the show.

### **Family Day Activities**

We are pleased to announce that during the Family Day weekend, February 17 – 20, there will be a number of programs and activities to enjoy across the Recreation sites. In addition to swim and rink programming, our Community Centre Associations are offering countless activities for families throughout the City.

Activities include fun for the whole family featuring crafts, bouncy castles, sports, performances, and so much more! We encourage you to check-in with your local community centre to find out what is happening. Registration is required, so reach out today to sign up while space permits! Many events are free, and registration is available on ActiveNet. Please visit [our site](#) to learn more.

### **Pink Shirt Day**

As a movement that began by two grade 12 students to support their classmate against bullying, this act of kindness sparked an awareness that has grown globally. At Park Board, to mark the importance of [Pink Shirt Day](#) (Anti-Bullying Day) there will be many opportunities across the network for staff/volunteers and the public to participate and build awareness of this important topic.

One DTES site will be hosting an intergenerational and partner-engaged event which will bring together school-age children, youth and seniors through recreational art-based activities and community dialogue. In other locations activities range from youth led discussions with peers to anti-bullying button making to pink shirt paper cut outs that the public can write positive affirmations to post. All staff are encouraged to wear pink and anti-bullying buttons.

To support this initiative outside of a one day of recognition, Park Board's Recreation team is committed to inclusion as a priority and one way is through incorporating [HIGH 5](#), a program that embraces anti-bullying and inclusion as a philosophy and has training modules specifically designed to recognize and correct bullying and exclusion situations. All Park Board staff and CCA instructors will be trained and certified by end of 2023.

In addition, the Community Youth Development team, with the support of CCAs, offers programs and services that build kindness, empathy, compassion and anti-bullying through their approach to youth engagement across most Community Centres all year round.



### **Promontory Park**

The construction of [Promontory Park](#) started in December 2022 and is aiming for completion in Fall 2023.

Promontory Park is the project name for a 0.3 hectare Neighbourhood Park located in East Fraser Lands. This new park will feature lawn areas for flexible programming, trees and plantings that create natural habitat, a play space that incorporates play for children in different age groups and abilities, pathways for walking and rolling, and a rain garden to manage and treat on-site storm water run-off. The contract for construction was approved by the Board on October 14, 2022.

### **Sunset Beach Jervis Parking Lot Improvement**

In response to concerns about wheelchair access from the Jervis Parking Lot at Sunset Beach down to the seawall path, staff worked with partners to make improvements to the parking area. The accessible parking area was relocated next to the access ramp to the seawall, an additional designated parking stall was added, and a new curb cut provides better access to the ramp.

### **Seawall Repairs – English Bay**

During the last major king tide of January 2022 the Seawall along English Bay was damaged and had partial washouts in spots opposite the Sylvia Hotel. The washouts remediation plan was reviewed by our Park Planning Engineering staff in consultation with Maritime Project Engineer (Advison). Park Operations lead the implementation of the protection and placement of rip rap material along the damaged seawall. This rip rap was placed February 1, 2023.

Rip rap is the rock material used to protect shoreline structures from erosion of sand or base material and also to protect the seawall from the water, debris in the ocean such as logs and waves.

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

Council to receive a report titled '[Appointment of Childcare Operators, Lease Approvals, Childcare Grant Approvals, and Approval of Funding for Maintenance of Licensed Childcare Centres at West Fraser Lands, Henry Hudson Elementary School, and Marpole Community Centre](#)'. Staff recommendations in the report include approving several non-profit organisations to be operators for new-licensed childcare centres, and that council concur with the Park Boards lease with a childcare operator at Marpole Community Centre.

### **Board Briefing Memos and Emails: January 30 to February 13, 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
February 2	<a href="#">Parking Strategy</a>
February 6	<a href="#">Sport Field Strategy and Update</a>
February 6	<a href="#">Public and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy</a>