



Park Board General Manager's Report March 27, 2023

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

Park Rangers Update

In January, the Rangers received and responded to 1098 calls. This reflects an increase overall of 269 calls compared to the same month in 2022, wherein they received a total of 829 calls for service. In this month the Park Rangers main focus of calls was regarding homelessness, with 322 compared to 186 files in January 2022, rising by 56% in January 2023 compared to the same month in 2022.

Site patrols at this time are dedicated to the DTES, CRAB Park, Stanley Park and the beaches. In conjunction, development of a new schedule is underway. As we move into spring and summer their concentration will remain in the DTES (CRAB Park), Stanley Park, Trout Lake and all beaches and parking lots.

A joint cleanup of the northwest area of CRAB Park took place on January 17, 2023 with Engineering (Sanitation) VPD and Rangers. Jointly 4600 Kg of debris and garbage was removed. Another major clean up is scheduled for CRAB Park shortly, within the next 2 weeks.

Current sites targeted for cleanup:

- The department identified 3 locations that will required a coordinated effort to remove large amount of debris, garbage and relocate numerous individuals. These locations are:
 - Rupert Park – abandoned camp
 - Champlain Heights – abandoned camp
 - Vanier Park – BMX Bike site – 2 large tent structures

The cleanup of these sites will require the assistance of both Park Operations and Engineering (Sanitation) to complete over the next few weeks.

NIF Grant for Green Infrastructure and Rainwater Integration in Parks

On March 16 Chair Jensen and Mayor Sim received official confirmation from MP Noormohamed of up to \$30M in federal grant funding to support green infrastructure and rainwater integration into park projects. Up to 60% capital project funding support is now available through this National Infrastructure Fund (NIF) grant.

Rainwater integration projects match well with policy priorities of City and Park Board, especially within the actions called for in VanPlay – Nature.

Eligible projects, including Tatlow/Volunteer Park and the new park design for Gibbys Field, have already been approved by Park Board. Projects such as Falaise, Slocan, and Beaconsfield are in the Still Creek watershed and would increase the natural habitat in east Vancouver which currently offers less opportunities to experience nature than elsewhere in the parks system. Project signage will be the start of targeted communications with groups in these neighbourhoods. It is important to note the NIF funding timeline requirement, as it is only available for costs incurred by the end of 2024.

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

Council to receive a report on [2023 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#) recommending that they approve grants supporting community services such as Childcare and Greenest City organizations.



Council to receive a report on [Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Spring 2023 Intake](#) on March 28. This report recommends that Council approve the 15 new grants that support sporting events in Vancouver.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: March 7 to March 27, 2023

Date	Topic
March 8	Señákw Development Overview
March 9	Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane, Parking & Aquarium Interior Renovation Project
March 9	Sport Field Maintenance
March 15	Aberthau Playground – Grant Notification Letter PBC
March 17	Childcare in Parks and Community Centres
March 20	Temporary Structures in Vanier Park
March 20	Status of Stanley Park Train