

WATER PRIORITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Potable Water Fed Decorative Features

Regular Park Board Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2023



- The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Board with information pertaining to:
 - Previous Board Direction
 - Resident interest and public enquiries
 - Current State including available budget and priority work underway
 - Recent Council Motion on decorative water features
 - Next Steps

- 2019: VanPlay Master Plan, Approach N.2.2. specifies the goal to reduce potable water use in parks through service review, innovative design, new technologies and increasing the use of recirculating systems.
- 2017: the Board endorsed a Water Conservation Action Plan to guide the ongoing implementation of water conservation in Vancouver parks.
- 2015: Board directed staff to explore “the costs and benefits of various measures that can be taken to mitigate against future droughts by reducing water use and identifying opportunities to reuse or recycle grey water”.

- Water features are of great interest to some residents and are valued for cooling, visual and audible experiences, and aesthetics
- There have been public enquiries about the features that are currently turned off
- This interest increases when the weather warms: we have a need to address these enquiries



- **108** water features including water bodies and spray parks in parks
- In some cases, City by-laws currently prevent the use of non-recirculating water features (related to decreased water supply/increased potable water demand)
- There are regional water use restrictions, Provincial Health regulations, and Federal Fisheries Act considerations
- Water is a growing utility cost for Park Board and water conservation can reduce operating costs
- Other circumstances presenting challenges

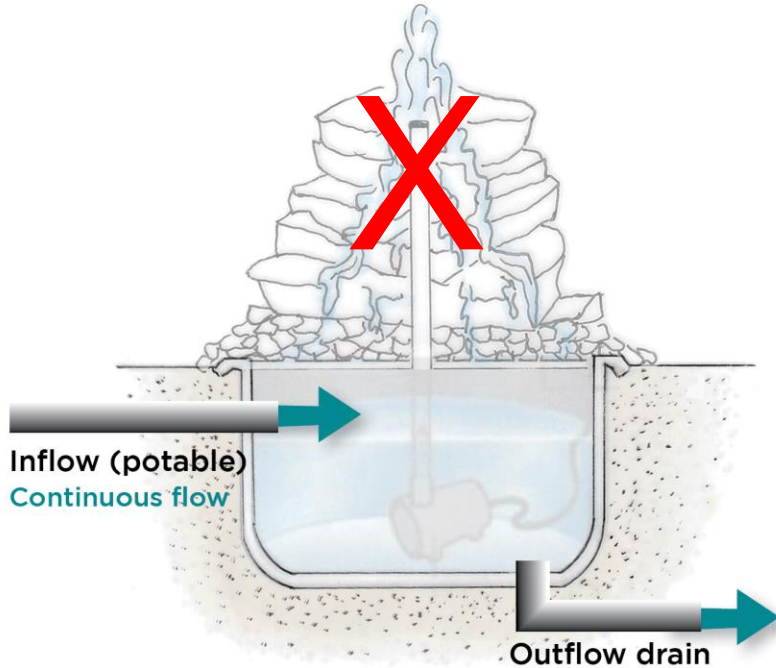
Water Features and Water Use In Parks



- Most of the Park Board's water features, supply lines, and irrigation systems were designed and built between 1950-1970
- Each water feature has a unique circumstance:
 - In operation and recirculating (compliant with by-laws)
 - Broken but compliant with by-laws
 - Broken and not compliant with the by-laws
 - Beyond repair due to age and condition
 - Is a pond or natural feature which has different operating requirement

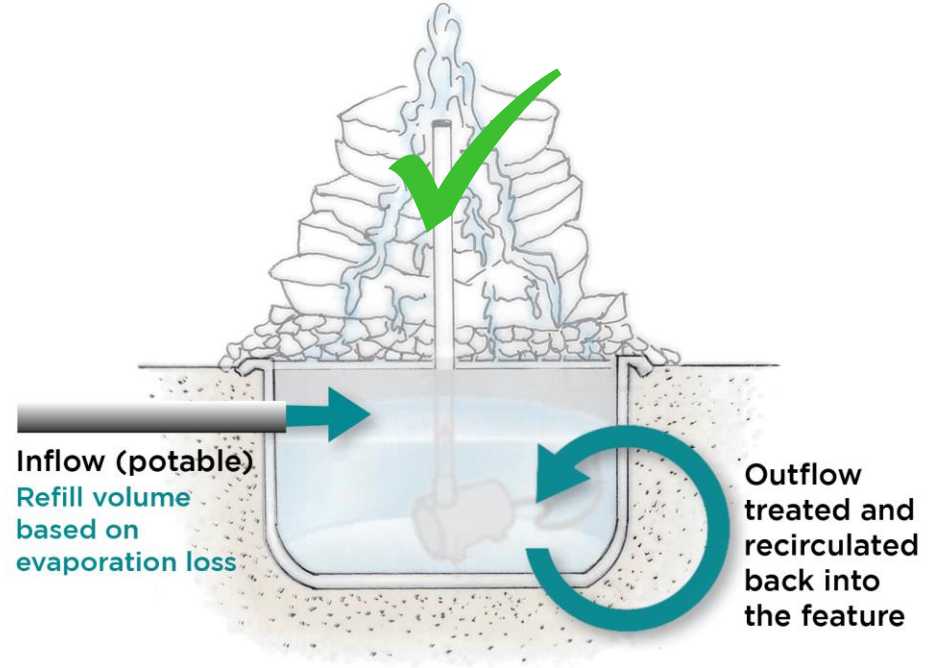
Non Compliant

ONCE-THROUGH
Water Feature



Compliant

RECIRCULATING
Water Feature



Distribution of non-compliant water features

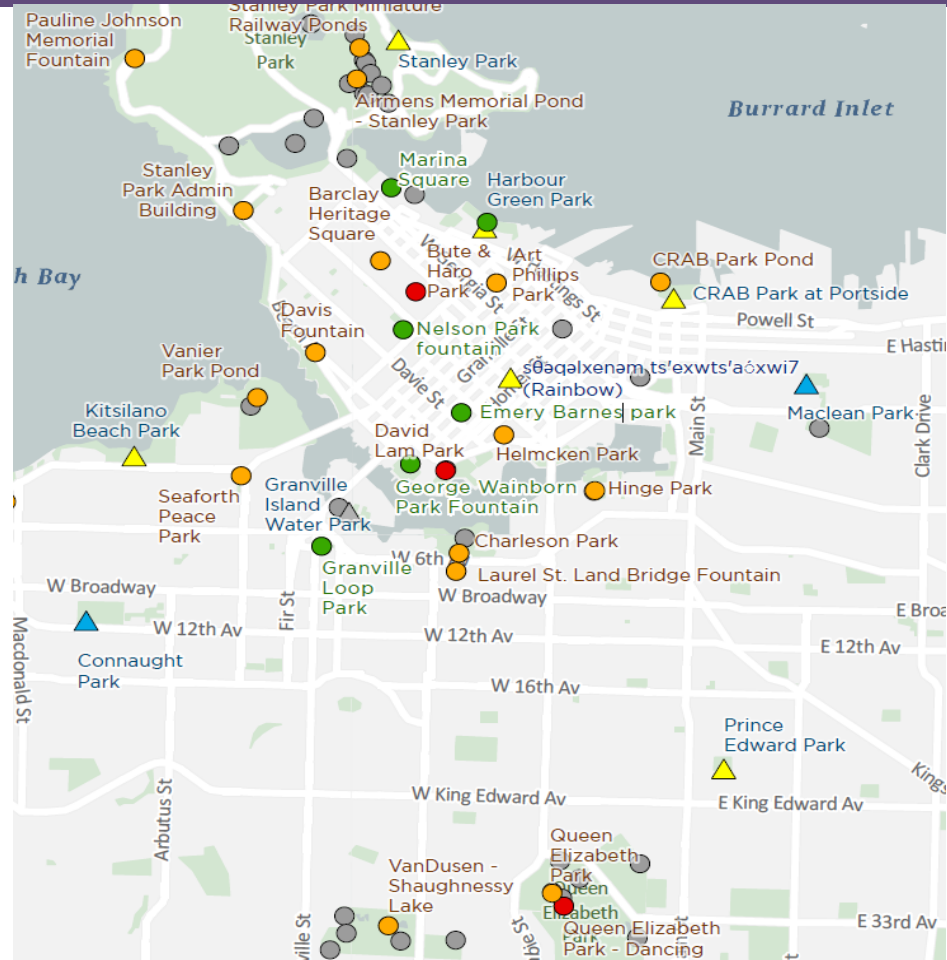
Water Features

Non-Compliant Water Features by:

- Design
- Breakage
- No Compliancy Data
- Compliant Water Features

Spray Parks

- ▲ Recirculation System
- ▲ No Recirculation System
- ▲ No Recirculation Data



- Staff are prioritizing spray parks and swimming pools for May opening
- PB Staff currently assessing the condition of **66** water features (21 decorative fountains, 2 water falls, 18 spray parks, 15 wading pools, 7 ponds, 1 water play feature) including repair cost estimates (draft report in Q3 2023)
- Staff are developing a **Water Priority Action Plan Update** to support repair prioritization discussions for the Board which will include climate and equity considerations
 - Financial strain: **\$2M** is available in the current Capital Plan for water feature conversions and repairs (insufficient funding to address all issues)
 - Prioritization of work will be necessary

- System leak detections and fixes
- Timers, operating hours, and push-buttons on many features to reduce consumption
- Field house urinal retrofits
- Naturalization of some ponds such as the pond in Charles Park to utilize seasonal rain / groundwater in lieu of potable water



Current State - QE Dancing Waters – built in 2007

- Specifications and drawings being prepared for repair of this recirculating fountain
- \$600,000 repair cost (preliminary estimate), repairs can be completed by 2024
- Will be brought to Board for prioritization consideration along with other fountain repair needs



FURTHER THAT specific water fountains to be considered for by-law exemption, if deemed to be operational and otherwise functional, shall include (but not be limited to):

Haro & Bute Street Plaza fountain

Helmcken Park water feature

Queen Elizabeth Park quarry Waterfall

Stanley Park admin building pond

Barclay Heritage Square fountain

Davis Fountain (Beach at Pacific)

Various watercourses at Van Dusen Gardens

Laurel Street Land Bridge fountain

Seaforth Peace Park fountain
(excluding gas flame component)

Jericho Beach Park pond

A. 5 Fountains can be turned on if excepted:

- Laurel, Davis, Barclay, Helmcken, and Bute & Haro Parks. (Bute & Haro requires repair.)

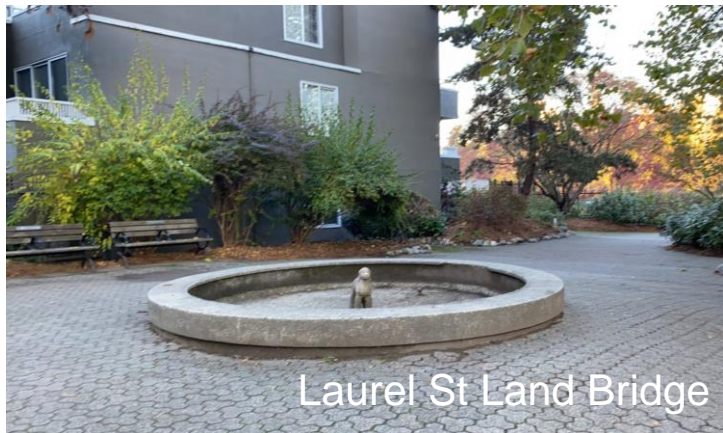
B. 3 Features are not recommended for exception at this time primarily due to condition, major repair issues, and likely costs:

- Queen Elizabeth Waterfall, Stanley Park Administration Building Pond, and Seaforth Park Fountain. (These features and others will be part of the consideration of prioritization for repair in the staff report back on Water Feature Asset condition report and draft Water Priority Plan.)

C. 2 Features are naturalized habitat ponds not requiring repair exception:

- VanDusen Gardens - Shaughnessy Pond, and Jericho Beach Park pond. (They are not topped up with potable water and staff do not recommend doing so.)

Images of features proposed for exception



- Plumbing staff will be prioritizing the spring opening of swimming pools, spray parks, and drinking water fountains
- Exception decorative water fountains will be activated / repaired (e.g. Bute and Haro fountain) *after* the above are ready for operation
- The Water Feature Asset condition report and draft Water Priority Plan will be brought to the Board for consideration in Q4 (including cost estimates for repairs)

