



Park Board General Manager's Report May 29, 2023

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

Sport Court Renewal

Park Development and Recreation Services has worked alongside Tennis BC to upgrade six courts at Stanley Park. Tennis BC provided a donation of \$100,000 which allowed us to coordinate the upgrade with the contractor Tomko in a quick and efficient manner. The upgrade included flood testing, pressure washing, filling all major cracks on the court, and 5 coat plexipave court surface coating and painting. This work was monitored by park staff and a biologist to ensure the noise would not affect the herons nesting nearby.

Additionally, Jericho and Champlain Heights pickleball court renewals are also complete and are open for play. Heather Park tennis court renewal will begin in June.

Further collaboration is also underway with Tennis BC for additional funding at another court renewal. We are currently still in the selection process.

Imagine West End Waterfront

The Imagine West End Waterfront project has just concluded its second round of Pop-up engagement, with events taking place on Saturday May 13, Tuesday May 16, and Thursday May 18. The weather was fantastic for all three days, and staff were grateful for the overwhelmingly positive conversations with the public.

Planning Policy and Environment staff were very pleased to have Chair Jensen and Commissioner Bastovanszky drop by to chat with staff and the public.

The purpose of this round of engagement was to share the three initial design approaches with the public. These are the same as those presented to the Board on April 4. The response so far has been quite good with approximately 1200 completed surveys received so far. The survey concludes on June 1, and can be accessed on the [Imagine West End Waterfront Shape Your City page](#).

As this round of engagement comes to a close, work will begin on processing the results in order to inform the development of a final draft concept, which will be shared with the Board later this year.

Champlain Heights Playground Opening

The renewed neighbourhood playground at Champlain Heights Community Centre opened on Saturday, May 27, following construction over the last ten months. The new playground is larger than the outdated infrastructure and provides significantly more play opportunities for children of all ages. With a new play tower, hill slide, in-ground trampolines and a water play feature, the playground will be enjoyed by the community throughout the year.

CSLA Awards – Skateboard Strategy

We are pleased to announce that not one but two Park Board projects were recently announced as the recipients of this year's Canadian Society of Landscape Architect's Awards of Excellence.

First in the Planning & Research Category, CITYSKATE, Vancouver's Skateboard Strategy won a National Award for the Park Board's long-term plan for implementing new or improved skate amenities over the next 30 years. Collaborating with Van der Zalm & Associates, this project involved a planning team, award winning skateboard park designers, professional skateboarders, and of course the community. Through data collection, extensive engagement with stakeholders, with a



focus on equity and youth, and strategic analysis of current and future trends, service gaps, and future growth areas, the team worked closely with the community to define priorities, and develop data driven and community backed recommendations for the future of skateboarding in Vancouver.

CSLA Awards – Rainbow Park

sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 is a place of gathering and enchanting encounters in the heart of Downtown Vancouver. It is a benchmark for Canadian landscape architecture that brings action to reconciliation by reintroducing language to the land and redefining perceptions of urban park planning and design. The park's name – meaning rainbow – was gifted by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, describing a place remembered for its abundant water where sun and mist danced around marshlands to form rainbows.

Today, water from the splash pad catches sun rays before being recirculated to lush plants carefully selected for their cultural significance to Host Nations and their relation to local habitats. "Rainbow Park" serves 30,000 neighbours through complex terracing, elevated walkways and an integrated café pavilion that makes space for a vibrant and diverse community to come together. The result is a deeply connected, multi-dimensional experience that bridges nature and culture, past and future. We are pleased that the work by the Planning and Park Development team is getting recognized in the industry at a National scale.

Bloedel Conservatory Clean Energy Upgrades

On May 16, BC Hydro launched a [Clean Energy Champion](#) program to recognize businesses, homes, and institutions for reducing their reliance on fossil fuels.

Bloedel Conservatory has been selected as BC Hydro's first clean energy champion for energy efficient upgrades that cut greenhouse emissions by 90%. That's equivalent to taking 56 gas-powered cars off the road. And the heat pump will dramatically decrease the conservatory's energy bills.

Earlier this year the City of Vancouver installed a large air source heat pump - more than 50 times the size of heat pump used in a typical BC home - that uses clean BC Hydro electricity instead of natural gas to heat and cool the dome's interior.

Staff Announcement – Manager, Recreation Services (City-Wide)

On behalf of the Recreation Leadership Team it is my pleasure to announce that Jay Deo (he/him) is the successful incumbent for our Manager, Recreation Services (Citywide). Jay will be providing leadership to the Aquatics, Arenas, Fitness, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Sports Services teams. Jay brings a diverse background that encompasses youth services, community recreation, special events, arenas, aquatics, sports, and sport hosting joining Park Board from the City of Abbotsford where he held multiple roles, most recently as Manager, 55+ BC Games. Jay's experience includes a significant emphasis on relationship management, leading inter-departmental working groups, building community trust through engagement with community organizations, and work with sport groups.

As a lifelong learner, Jay is currently completing a certificate in Civic Governance and Innovation through the University of the Fraser Valley. He also brings a Bachelors Degree in Recreation and Health from the University of Victoria.

When not at work, Jay prioritizes spending time with his wife and two young children chasing adventures locally and abroad. He and his family enjoy travelling, exploring new cultural experiences,



and navigating the many parks throughout the lower mainland. Jay enjoys several sports including playing golf, trail cycling, and slo-pitch and remains hopelessly optimistic his favourite team the Vancouver Canucks will one day raise a Stanley Cup.

He also is an avid volunteer recently serving as Chair for KidSport Squamish, as a Personal Disaster Responder for Canadian Red Cross, and supporting environmental, diversity and inclusion initiatives with Streams Foundation Canada.

Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow

A 3 day traditional Pow Wow occurred May 12-14 at Trout Lake Community Centre to celebrate Mother's Day. The indigenous-led Mother's Day Pow wow committee with community partner organizations worked over three months to plan and deliver this event.

It is estimated 20,000 people attended the Pow wow which included hundreds of dancers and featured the Grammy nominated group Northern Cree Singers. Additionally there were 60 vendors, 10 food trucks and over 3200 free meals provided to community members that day. Other cultural activities included pipe ceremonies, learning circles, hair braiding, and a ceremonial fire.

Community partners, such as Britannia Community Services Centre Society, Trout Lake Community Centre Association and Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House, supported the event by providing free access to space at the community centre, administrative services, in kind staffing and volunteer contributions, hosting an Elders Room, and providing a dinner with traditional food. Their collaboration, support and shared vision have been instrumental in the collective success of the event.

The Park Board Recreation team contributed in-kind staffing for event planning and logistics, along with free use of the arena and baseball diamond.

Pow Wows are a testament to the strength and resilience of Indigenous people, and their connection to culture, identity and ceremony. This was an important healing event for many in attendance and we look forward to supporting the Mother's Day Committee in the future. A Father's Day Pow wow is being planned by community groups for June 16-18 at Britannia Community Centre.

Kitsilano Pool Re-Opening for the 2023 Season

Kitsilano Pool will open for the summer season on Sunday, June 4. The pool is now full of water, which is being heated, treated, and tested to ensure it's ready for patrons on the opening day.

Kitsilano Pool had a late opening this year, just two weeks after New Brighton and Second Beach outdoor pools opened on May 20, due to ongoing repairs. In January 2022, a large storm caused debris and large waves to rattle Vancouver's coastline, causing damage to many amenities. Kitsilano Pool was greatly damaged, with cracks to its foundation. Through staff's hard work, the pool was temporarily repaired in time for the bulk of the 2022 summer season, but needed additional repairs before it was able to reopen for 2023. As these weather-dependent repairs were able to be completed recently, the pool will open on June 4.

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

Council to receive a report on May 31 titled [Water Works & Drinking Water Conservation By-Law Amendments](#) where they will decide whether to approve the exemption for Park Board water features that do not currently meet the recirculating requirements.



Date	Subject
May 12	Financial Results for Q1 2023
May 18	Metro Vancouver Water Main Repairs Stanley Park
May 19	West End Waterfront Plan Update
May 26	Sport Field Motions and Track & Field Project Update