



Park Board General Manager's Report October 16, 2023

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

Oppenheimer Park Playground Renewal

Oppenheimer Park is a cherished hub for the diverse community in the Downtown Eastside, providing an array of social, educational, recreational, and cultural programs. However, in recent times, the park has faced challenges necessitating the replacement or removal of various amenities, including elements of the existing playground.

Situated within an equity-seeking area, as identified in [VanPlay](#), Oppenheimer Park holds vital importance as a green space for residents with limited access to such amenities. The playground's conceptual plan was meticulously designed to incorporate insights from community organizations including Promise Vancouver, Japanese Language School's Childcare Centre, and Powell Street Festival. The renewal project aims to transform Oppenheimer Park's playground into a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable space for children and caregivers, addressing a pressing need within the community. Construction is targeted to commence in the spring of 2024.

The Oppenheimer Park Playground renewal project has been honored as one of the recent recipients of the Tire Stewardship of BC Grant, a program dedicated to supporting communities and organizations. This initiative grants community organizations the funds needed to execute projects utilizing recycled tires, such as for the installation of poured-in-place rubber surfacing. Tire Stewardship BC (TSBC), a provincial not-for-profit society, oversees the tire recycling program in British Columbia, emphasizing sustainability and community support.

Vancouver Tennis Society ParticiP ACTION Events

The Vancouver Tennis Society is a local non-profit that advocates for Vancouver public tennis court players and works to grow tennis participation in the city. The Society, in partnership with the Park Board, received grants from [ParticiP ACTION](#) to host sport participation events this past summer.

The events, hosted at Langara Public Courts, Heather Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and Slocan Park between June 3 and June 25, were free for participants and focused on introducing Tennis to Canadian newcomers, people with limited mobility, Indigenous Communities, and to the general public.

The 4 events featuring 8 different sessions had over 155 people in total attend. Based on the success, Vancouver Tennis Society is looking at hosting future similar events to grow tennis for all people in Vancouver.

National Truth & Reconciliation Day

Staff are happy to showcase activities and events that supported National Truth & Reconciliation Day by the Decolonization Arts & Culture (DAC) team and the collaboration with Community Centre Association (CCA) partners. The DAC team raised 'Every Child Matters' flags at Morton Park, Kitsilano CCA hosted a week of activities, False Creek CCA displayed Indigenous Art, and Mount Pleasant CCA designed 'Every Child Matters' t-shirts.

In addition to these activities, a number of CCAs hosted events on September 30th to commemorate National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Strathcona CCA and Britannia CCA collaborated on a Walk for Truth and Reconciliation. Killarney CCA hosted an All Nations Gathering, and both Trout Lake CCA and Hastings CCA organized Orange Shirt Days.



Pollinator Meadows

[Pollinator meadows](#) in parks have shown to have many benefits, including improved habitat for beneficial species of plants and animals, more moisture retention in park soils to help trees during periods of drought, cooler temperatures to benefit summer visitors, less carbon emissions during maintenance, and more diversity in passive park landscapes for people to enjoy. Park staff have converted over 100 acres of park managed land, including public golf courses and boulevards, to naturalized and wildflower meadows.

In 2022, the Vancouver Park Board was recognized as an international leader by receiving a certificate of merit for demonstrating this inspiring and innovative approach to city greening which has the potential for replicability by other cities around the world. Given continued success in 2023, Park staff will continue to enhance existing wildflower meadows across the city in 2024, transforming areas that are under-used and difficult to manage, such as steep slopes, wet depressions, golf course rough and medians into resilient, vibrant, and inviting features. Park staff also use experience gained to advise on meadow designs for new development projects, such as the Cambie Street active transportation corridor and Burrard Slopes Park to create sustainable and climate-friendly networks.

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

Council to receive a report on October 18, 2023 titled “[Contract Award for Marpole Community Centre Construction Project](#)” which would authorize City staff to enter into a contract to complete the construction of the new Marpole Community Centre. The existing Marpole Community Centre is the Park Board’s oldest community centre, and the building is in need of renewal due to future programming demands and aging building systems.

Council will also receive a report on October 18, 2023 titled “[Provincial ‘Growing Communities Fund’: Allocation to Temporary Plazas, Turf Field at Moberly Park and Spray Park at Ross Park](#)”, which would approve an additional \$10M from the Growing Community Funds (GFC) towards the Turf Field at Moberly Park and a Spray Park at Ross Park projects.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: September 25 to October 16

Date	Topic
October 11	Outdoor Pools Reservation System