



Park Board General Manager's Report January 22, 2024

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

Snow and Ice Response

Park Board crews have been busy responding to the recent snow and ice conditions last week. Crews undertook pre-treatment work and during the snow, cleared major park roadways, sidewalks, parking lots and pathways to our major facilities.

Staff salted, brined, and ploughed these areas by deploying our diverse fleet such as 1 tonne vehicles, single axles, John Deeres and Gators, but also using shovels and spades.

In response to the cold weather conditions, Rangers also completed wellness checks at Hillcrest Aquatic Centre and Dunbar Community Centre. Our thanks go out to staff for responding diligently and swiftly to safety concerns.

Sunset Seniors Centre Public Information Session

Staff are holding a public information session for the Sunset Seniors Centre building on January 25 from 3-5pm at the Sunset Community Centre. The seniors' facility will be a new building addition to the south of the Sunset Community Centre.

The Sunset Seniors center is demonstrating leadership in meeting the City's sustainability goals and policies, including design to a Passive House level of energy performance, the use of 100% electric systems, targeting a 40% reduction in embodied carbon, capture and cleaning of the first 48mm of rainfall, as well as certification to the LEED gold standard. Construction of the building is expected to begin in the fall of 2024, with substantial completion in December 2025.

Community feedback has helped shape the building. Community members provided input in 2017 and have been involved throughout the 2023-24 design process. The centre will be about 10,000 sqft and have various multipurpose rooms, a commercial kitchen, a lounge, and support spaces such as offices, a reception area and washrooms.

104th Polar Bear Swim at English Bay

On January 1, 2024, the Vancouver Park Board hosted the 104th Polar Bear Swim at English Bay. A record breaking 8,683 registered participants celebrated the New Year by taking a cold plunge, while many more spectators cheered on.

The Peter Pantages memorial trophy and winners of the 100m race was awarded to Gareth Jones and Ridley Judkins. The water temperature on the day was a chilly 8 degrees, while the air temperature registered a cool 6 degrees.

VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory

Staff are pleased to announce that VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory and Festival of Lights had record-breaking attendance for 2023. VanDusen Garden's regular admissions had an increased of 18% from 2022 to 2023 and Bloedel Conservatory's regular admissions had an increased of 33% throughout the same time period.

VanDusen Festival of Lights, which was recently named as one of world's most spectacular light displays by Conde Nast Traveler, had an increase of over 12% in visitation from the previous year. Newly added special events such as Fleurs De Villes at VanDusen, the return of the Corpse Flower, Uncle Fester, in leaf form at Bloedel, new lighting features at FOL as well as favorable weather and conditions were all contributing factors to this success.



Killarney Society Holiday Lights

The Killarney Society hosted a Tree Lighting event on Saturday Nov 25, 2023. The event featured a youth orchestra and senior choir, along with ornament making crafts and cookie decorating for all to enjoy. Hot chocolate was also served while guests listened to the music.

The Society purchased all the lights for the event, installed a dedicated timer through the Park Board's electrical department, and partnered with the Fire Department to hang the lights. The Killarney Society generously provided a \$500 donation to the Burn Fund to thank them for their time and community involvement

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

Council to receive a report on January 24, 2024 titled "[Jericho Lands Policy Statement](#)", which recommends the approval of the Jericho Lands Policy Statement to guide the preparation of an Official Development Plan, future rezoning, and development of the Jericho Lands.

Council to receive a report on January 24, 2024 titled "[2024 Budget Adjustment related to risk mitigation of the Hemlock Looper Moth in Stanley Park](#)", which recommends the approval of a one-time 2024 operating budget increase of \$4.9 million for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to fund immediate work required to mitigate the risk of trees damaged by the Hemlock Looper Moth within Stanley Park.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: December 11, 2023 to January 22, 2024

Date	Topic
December 18	Alcohol on Beaches 2023 Pilot Update
January 17	Park Board Commissioner Liaison Appointments - 2024
January 18	Jericho Lands Policy Statement Update