



## **Park Board General Manager's Report March 11, 2024**

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

### **East Park Engagement Launch – Round Two**

East Park is a new park located in the Southeast False Creek Neighborhood and will complete a cohesive and connected open space network around False Creek with complementary park programming and amenities. The East Park project study area includes 1.11 hectares of new parkland and the renewal of Creekside Park South.

Round two engagement, running from March 26 to April 16, will invite feedback on preliminary concept designs for the south side of East Park between the Seaside Greenway and East First Avenue. Information about the Ontario Street upgrades will also be shared at this time. The preliminary concept designs are shaped by the Northeast False Creek guiding principles together with what was heard from the host Nations and the community during the first round of engagement held in Fall 2022. Key takeaways include emphasizing sustainability and climate action, ensuring safe and accessible circulation, promoting mutual learning, and fostering health and healing for nature, people, and communities.

Public engagement activities will include an online survey, site signage, an open house event on Saturday, April 13, at Creekside Community Centre from 11:00am – 3:00pm, social media posts, mailouts and email notifications, and a telephone line. Along with technical design considerations, feedback from round two engagement will be used to refine the design and develop a concept plan which will be shared with the public and presented to the Board for decision in Q4 2024. The concept plan will include information about the shoreline and connections to the waterfront north of the Seaside Greenway.

### **Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal**

Located in the Cambie Corridor, the Alberta Street Blue Green System and Columbia Park Renewal project is a demonstration of the City and Park Board's dedication to sustainable rainwater management and resilient urban ecosystems in a densifying area. The project explores innovative ways to provide critical drainage services through changes to Columbia Park, Alberta Street, and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue while meeting project principles of creating a thriving urban ecosystem, respecting and celebrating water, supporting a vibrant, active community and maximizing public open spaces.

A concept plan is being shared with the public for information on the Shape Your City project page, starting on April 8. The project has already completed two rounds of public engagement, which started in 2021. Feedback gathered on preliminary concept designs and priorities for Alberta Street and Columbia Park helped to shape the concept plan. Key takeaways for Columbia Park indicated a preference to balance active and passive site amenities. There will be onsite signage and a pop-up event on April 20 for the public to review the concept plan and speak to project staff. The concept plan is targeted for Board decision in Q3 2024.

### **Daylighting of Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks**

Following [approval](#) from the Board on March 9, 2020, staff have been proceeding with work to daylight Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks Park. Canyon Creek, like many of Vancouver's streams, had portions piped and buried as the city developed. The downstream portion of the creek now flows through a failing culvert beneath Spanish Banks West, before discharging into Burrard Inlet.

The project, funded through the 2023-2026 Capital Plan and in alignment with the [VanPlay](#) directives to "Weave the City Together", aims to connect and enrich the ecosystem, transforming the existing



turf into healthy habitat, encouraging the return of wildlife and making Vancouver spaces healthier, vibrant, and accessible. It also complements the nearby stream daylighting at Spanish Banks Creek (1999) and Salish Creek (2012), enhancing the connectivity and overall health of Pacific Spirit Regional Park Watershed. Restoration design focuses on nature based coastal adaption solutions, including softening the foreshore and creating new naturalized habitats like riparian corridors and intertidal marshes.

Public information signage has recently been erected on site and staff are currently advancing detailed design and tendering, with construction aimed to start in late 2024.

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

Council to receive a report on March 12, 2024, titled "[2024 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#)" which would approve several grants, including, but not limited to, 62 Core Support Grants totalling \$2.68M, 11 Neighbourhood Organization Grants totalling \$1.34M, and 27 Building Safe Communities Program (BSCP) Grants totalling \$2.27M.

Council to receive a report on March 12, 2024, titled "[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Spring 2024 Intake](#)", which would approve 16 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants totalling \$89,000.

Council to receive a report on March 13, 2024, titled "[Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2024-25 Update](#)", which would direct staff to begin implementation of the 2024-2025 Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2024-25, and also direct staff to report back in 2025 with a five-year update to the Strategy at the same time as an update to the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is brought forward.

**Board Briefing Memos and Emails: February 26, 2024, to March 11, 2024**

Date	Topic
February 26	<a href="#">On Water Watercraft Launch at Beaches By-law Update</a>
February 29	<a href="#">Park Board Sport Leagues – Update</a>