



Park Board General Manager's Report May 6, 2024

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

Park Rangers at CRAB Park

Park Rangers have been diligently providing messaging to the patrons at CRAB Park regarding the Parks Control Bylaw, as well as the GM Notice. The CRAB Park patrons were temporarily relocated to the south section of the park while an extensive clean-up of the designated daytime sheltering area took place. This work was done in collaboration with Park Rangers, Park Operations and City of Vancouver Sanitation. Crews removed more than 90,000 kg (90 tons) of debris and material, and more than 20 propane tanks, including two large 70-pound tanks and six generators. Crews also scraped and leveled the top layer of soil as it was infused with hazardous substances and materials. The CRAB Park patrons have now been successfully moved back to the designated daytime shelter area, which is now being maintained for compliance.

In-House Construction Projects

Park Development staff have contracted some new Capital Playground constructions with the Structures and Fabrication Shop of the Park Board Building and Structures (PBBSM) Department. These projects have been undertaken utilizing in-house resources and staff through all phases of construction. As there is no profit target, no change order penalties, and the installers are all professionals, the projects are completed at a savings compared to private contractor bids. Installers work directly with the Park Development project manager and as a result, communications are virtually instant, and changes are made smoothly in complete cooperation in achieving a shared goal.

China Creek Park South – Skatepark Upgrades

China Creek South skatepark will be upgraded following recommendations outlined in the approved Skateboard Amenities Strategy. Originally built in 1979, the existing China Creek skatepark is Vancouver's oldest skatepark. On July 16, 2022, it was officially designated as number 92 on the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's "Places That Matter Community History Resource". The upgrades include new concrete surfacing and features that compliment the existing bowls to improve rider safety and experience, accommodate a range of user abilities and better serve the community.

Construction works are anticipated to initiate early in May 2024 and be completed by fall of 2024.

"Gibby's Field" Natural Park – Status

Following the [approval of the Gibby's Field concept plan in February 2023](#), construction of this new permanent park will begin this week and is expected to be complete by July 2024. The park will feature a rain garden, an improved accessible pathway, and natural vegetation. The official naming of the park may occur at a later date due to the work in progress to develop a decolonized park naming policy.

Throughout all phases of design and construction, there has been continuous engagement and communication with residents via letters, email, web updates, and a two-day event with Tyee School students. The event engaged students in learning about both Indigenous and settler histories of Gibby's Field, urban rainwater management, and native plants. The students drew images of the past, present and future of Gibby's Field that will be used in stencils and painted onto the new path pathway.

Students were enthusiastic about the new park, and the future outdoor learning and nature-based play they will get to experience there.



Alberta St Blue Green System & Columbia Park – Update

Located in the Cambie Corridor and Oakridge Municipal Town Centre, the Alberta St Blue Green System and Columbia Park Renewal project is a demonstration of the City and Park Board's dedication to collaborative and sustainable rainwater management in a rapidly densifying area. The project explores innovative ways to provide critical drainage services through updates to Columbia Park, Alberta Street, and 43rd 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.

Since April 8, the recommended concept plan has been available on the [Shape Your City's project page](#). Staff held an engaging on-site pop-up event on April 20 to connect with the public and answer questions. As part of this event, there was a fun and educational children's activity focused on stormwater, which received an enthusiastic response! The pop-up was well-attended, with approximately 50 participants throughout the day. The recommended concept plan for Columbia Park is targeted for Board decision in Q3 2024.

East Park Engagement Launch – Round Two Update

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 1.11ha of new parkland and the renewal of Creekside Park South.

Round two of public engagement ran from March 26 through April 16 and invited feedback on preliminary concept designs for Phase 1, which is the south side of East Park between the Seaside Greenway and East First Avenue. Information about the Ontario Street upgrades was also shared at this time. The preliminary concept designs are shaped by the Northeast False Creek Guiding Principles together with what was heard from the local First Nations and the community during the first round of engagement held in the fall of 2022. Key takeaways include emphasizing sustainability and climate action, ensuring safe and accessible circulation, promoting mutual learning, including food, and fostering health and healing for nature, people, and communities.

Staff held a successful, very well attended pop-up event at Creekside Community Centre on Saturday, April 13. 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 Park Board for decision in Q4 2024.

Outdoor Pool Opening Preparations

As summer approaches, staff have been hard at work preparing our outdoor pools for the season. Every year, no later than one month prior to the opening date of all outdoor pools, the facilities are serviced structurally, mechanically, and aesthetically.

Park Operations completely clean all exterior surfaces through hosing and pressure washing. All clean prepped surfaces are then recoated, including restoration of decals and signs. These coating applications are weather dependent and require between six to nine days of consistent warm, dry weather conditions to ensure proper application and curing. Fencing, pool deck equipment, lamp and flag poles, and concrete structures are likewise repaired and refreshed for the public to enjoy.



Outdoor Aquatics Season Launch

Staff are in preparation to launch another busy outdoor aquatics season. Beginning on May 18, outdoor pools including New Brighton, Second Beach, Kitsilano, and Maple Grove will begin to open for public use. In 2023, over 260,000 patrons used these pools, which support access in different regions of the city.

Also beginning on May 18, staff are preparing to lifeguard 10 waterfronts and beaches including Second Beach, Third Beach, English Bay, Jericho Beach, Kitsilano Beach, Locarno Beach, Sunset Beach, Spanish Banks (East, West and Extension), and Trout Lake. Of note, Trout Lake was not staffed in 2023 due to concerns with water quality. However, the lake has been deemed suitable for swimming to start the season, with staff regularly testing water over the next few months to ensure safe conditions.

Lastly, staff will be supporting the activation and programming of spray parks, wading pools and splash pads across the city. Six unsupervised assets will be open from May long weekend until Labour Day weekend, while the remaining 22 are supervised and programmed by staff from July to the end of August. These assets and the staff that support the programming of them provide low barrier, no cost access to recreational water features across the city and also act as a support mechanism for heat response.

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

Council to receive a report on May 7, 2024, titled "[Alcohol on Beaches – 2024 Re-Pilot](#)", which seeks the approval of a one-time 2024 operating budget increase of \$930,300 to fund the operational and enforcement needs for the Alcohol on Beaches Re-Pilot in the summer of 2024.

Council to receive a report on May 7, 2024, titled "[Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#)", which would approve an increase of \$32.6M to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, and an increase of \$54.6M to the Multi-year Capital Project Budgets. These budget increases would include:

- \$.8M in cost escalations to support the completion of Dog Off Leash Areas at Coopers, Heather, Granville, and Emery Barnes Parks.
- \$3M for the delivery of the Jericho Pier like-for-like repair
- \$.5M to support the planning and design phase for a new community center plaza in the East Fraser Lands
- \$12.93M to allocate funding for a new and upgraded Killarney Track & Field facility.

Council to receive a report on May 8, 2024, titled "[Imagine West End Waterfront Parks, Beaches, and Transportation Vision](#)", which would approve the West End Waterfront Vision as a guide for renewal and upgrading the West End waterfront over the next 30+ years. This report also seeks to approve in principle the implementation of Phase 1 of the project.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: April 22, 2024, to May 6, 2024

| Date | Topic |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| May 1 | Spanish Banks Watermain Replacement |