



Park Board General Manager's Report September 24, 2024

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

Burrard Slopes Park – Building Deconstruction

The four existing buildings on the future Burrard Slopes Park site will be removed this fall, with deconstruction work expected to be completed in spring 2025. Salvage and abatement work was required before deconstruction activities begin and is targeted to complete in September 2024.

Once the deconstruction work is complete, the former building sites will be planted with a wildflower meadow seed mix as a temporary condition. The site will be secured by a fence until future park construction starts.

The existing parks located at the southeast corner of 6th Avenue and Fir Street, the Pop-Up Park at 5th and Pine Street, and the Arbutus Greenway located within the same city block will all remain accessible during and after the building deconstruction work.

Staff will assess the condition of potential materials from the existing buildings for salvaging, such as wood beams, and explore options for reusing these materials in the future park design.

Preliminary concept options will be brought to the public for feedback in spring 2025, with the recommended concept design targeted for Board decision in summer 2025.

Daylighting of Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks Beach Park (West Extension) – Update

The idea to daylight Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks Beach Park has been progressing for several years now. This project will create and enhance 0.5 hectares of new naturalized habitat, improve access to nature, and increase climate resilience. It will also add connectivity within the larger Pacific Spirit Regional Park watershed, which holds important conservation value and offers high visibility for promoting ecological awareness.

This initiative is a high-value opportunity, as few streams can be daylighted in the City without land acquisition. It aligns with VanPlay, VanPlan, Biodiversity Strategy and Coastal Adaptation Planning, and the ongoing Vancouver Ecological Network project.

Project site signage was installed in the park in February 2024, and the project was included in the City of Vancouver's Restoring Stream website. This was followed by two pop-up engagement events in July. Park Board staff are currently working on tendering services, with a contract award scheduled for October 2024, and construction expected to be completed by early summer of 2025.

FIFA Training Sites – Temporary Changes at Killarney Park

As part of the FIFA World Cup scheduled for the summer of 2026, upgrades to the Killarney Park north fields will begin in the coming weeks. These upgrades will help facilitate the development of a training Site for the men's international team players. The Killarney Park Track & Field Renewal project, located east of the Community Centre, will take place concurrently.

To accommodate these projects, staff have temporarily relocated the dog off-leash area (OLA) to the eastern area of the park, adjacent to a temporary sports field to support Killarney Secondary School students. The north fields and off-leash area are expected to return to community use by fall 2026, coinciding with the opening of the new track and field facility.



These updates were shared at a public event at the Killarney Community Centre on September 7, and information signs will be posted in the park at the start of construction.

FIFA Training Sites – Public Outreach at Memorial South Park

Upgrades to facilitate the FIFA World Cup 26 Training Site at Memorial South Park will also begin in the coming weeks. Staff are planning an in-person information session this fall to communicate the timelines for track and field closures and to provide details on alternate park locations to ensure service continuity.

Completion of Musqueam Park Bridge Replacement

A new pedestrian and equestrian bridge has been installed across Musqueam Creek at Musqueam Park. The trail reopened ahead of schedule on September 12. The previous wooden bridge had reached the end of its service life, necessitating a replacement with a new steel and concrete bridge. Construction activities began on September 3 and were completed in 10 days.

Environmental protection measures were implemented, including new plantings along the creek bank and the removal of invasive plant species. Biologists from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans visited the site and were pleased with the Park Board's mitigation efforts. The xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Archaeology Department witnessed the excavation for new abutments and provided cultural monitoring for the project. Park Development staff collaborated closely with the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band, Park Operations, and City Engineering Services during the design and implementation phases of this project.

The final project cost was \$420,000, funded by the Park Bridges Renewal capital program and was a part of the 2024 Service Plan for Parks and Open Spaces Capital Projects.

Urban Park Activation: Celebrating Art in Andy Livingstone Park

The Urban Park Activation group is co-led by the Recreation and Arts, and the Reconciliation and Culture Departments. Their work supports art and recreation projects in parks to foster community connectedness and social belonging, particularly in areas of the city where there are tensions regarding park space usage.

In the summer of 2024, the Big Top Art Tent Artists Collective collaborated with Carnegie Community Centre elders, Marr Dorval and Les Nelson, to bring a painting and banner making project to Andy Livingstone Park from June to September. Throughout the summer, neighbours, including families from Crosstown School, low-income seniors, individuals experiencing substance use issues, visiting tourists, and unhoused park users, came together to draw, paint, bead, weave and share their personal stories while creating art side by side.

On September 19, the project culminated in a celebration at Andy Livingstone Park, which included drumming and dancing with the Carnegie lexwst'í:lem Drum Group, a banner parade through the park celebrating community artworks created, and onsite T-Shirt printing featuring a collaborative design showcasing drawings made throughout the summer.

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

Council to receive a report on September 24, 2024 titled "[Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#)", which would approve Capital Budget and funding adjustments, including an increase to Multi-Year Project Budget for the General Brock Park renewal, Trout Lake sports field and ball diamond upgrades, and Tatlow Park Creek daylighting.



Board Briefing Memos and Emails: September 9 to September 24, 2024

Date	Topic
September 23	Political Campaigning at City & Park Board Facilities