



## Park Board General Manager's Report December 9, 2024

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

### **2024 Micro Forest Pilot**

The Park Planning Team is pleased to report the installation of two new micro forests in East Vancouver at Gordon Park and Strathcona Park, totalling 1000m<sup>2</sup> of new canopy and habitat. Micro forests are small densely planted areas of native trees and understory plants that offer multiple ecological service benefits to our urban parks including increased biodiversity, connectivity between natural areas, and cooling to mitigate climate change.

Urban Forestry, Operations and Planning teams worked together to identify appropriate sites, select tree species, minimize future maintenance needs, and procure and deliver materials. This work supports service plan direction to increase urban forest canopy and create healthy habitat. The sites selected are in the low canopy neighbourhoods of Victoria-Fraserview and Strathcona.

Staff will monitor the ecological success at each site to inform future work. Students and teachers at David Thompson Secondary and active community members at Strathcona Park are interested in continued stewardship of the new micro forests. Split-rail fencing and interpretive signage will be installed in early 2025.

### **2024 Stewardship Restoration**

Stewardship partners engage the public in hands-on restoration and education activities in natural areas. These activities are reviewed and supported by staff. The work provides a special 'access to nature' experience in the city and include important invasive plant removal and native planting in natural areas across the park system. Activities take place in Stanley, New Brighton, Jericho, Renfrew Ravine, Everett Crowley, Strathcona and other parks.

Park Planning staff coordinated the procurement and delivery of 6,500 plants to 6 natural areas in parks, 4,000 of which were grown at Park Board's Sunset Nursery. Plants will be installed at community-led events in the fall and winter of 2024/2025. Dozens of varieties of perennial shrubs and ground cover plants will enhance biodiversity and ecological function in degraded natural areas. Operations staff provided key program support, including the Nursery team who grew the plants and drivers who helped deliver.

### **Kerrisdale – Point Grey Track and Field Upgrades – Opening**

The track and field upgrades at Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey Secondary School are opened for use. The upgrades were a priority recommendation in the Park Board's [Track and Field Strategy](#) and include the resurfaced 6-lane 400m track with additional recreational/walking lane, new and upgraded jumping and throwing amenities and other improvements to seating, storage, lighting and site accessibility.

The project improves training and recreational opportunities for facility users, better serves increased participation in track and field sports and promotes participation in physical activity. The west parking lot entry and throws area will remain closed until construction works in those areas are completed.

### **Bomb Cyclone Response**

On the evening of Nov 19, high winds swept over BC's South Coast causing the closure of Stanley Park. A rapidly deepening low-pressure system, known as a "bomb cyclone", fulfilled its promise of a large windstorm with gusts reaching 78 kilometers per hour.



The main risk to citizens and staff during high wind events is trees and branches falling onto pathways and roadways causing serious safety hazards. During this event 7 trees fell onto roadways within Stanley Park, rendering them unpassable. These obstructions caused access and egress challenges, and the wind was too strong for the Park Board's Urban Forestry team to complete the removal work until the following morning.

Park Rangers closed vehicle access points into Stanley Park, notified stakeholders, and patrolled remaining areas of the park to ask citizens to leave for their safety. Park Rangers also prepared detailed reports of downed trees on roadways, including photos, maps, so that our Urban Forestry teams could expedite removal and clean-up.

Closing Stanley Park on short notice during extreme weather events is a challenge for a small group of staff, and we certainly appreciate their efforts.

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

Council to receive a presentation on December 11, 2024, titled “Vancouver Plan Implementation Update.”. This presentation will be made available on the day of the meeting.

Council to receive a report on December 11, 2024, titled “[Broadway Plan Review and Implementation](#)”, which would approve the Broadway Public Realm Plan. The purpose of this plan is to guide the delivery of public open space and street improvements in the Broadway Plan area.

Council to receive a report on December 11, 2024, titled “[Contract Award for the Construction of the Early Works for the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver Venue Specific Training Sites \(VSTS\) at Killarney and Memorial South Parks](#)”, which would authorize City staff to negotiate and enter into a contract for the early works of the training sites at Killarney Park and Memorial South Park.

Council to receive a report on December 11, 2024, titled “[Contract Award for Golf Course Operators](#)”, which would authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for the supply of golf course operator services with Monaghan Golf Inc. for an initial 3-year term, plus the possible two 1-year extension options for a total of 5 possible years.

Council to consider a motion on December 11, 2024, titled “[Support for Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre at Hastings Park](#)”, which would approve commitment to support a Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre, located in Hastings Park in a portion of the Livestock Barns. City staff are also directed to report back with further considerations for decision in Q1 2025.

**Board Briefing Memos and Emails: November 4 to December 9, 2024**

| Date       | Topic  |
|------------|--|
| November 8 | <a href="#">FIFA Training Site at Memorial South Park Petition</a>                                   |
| December 3 | <a href="#">Decorative Lighting in Trees</a>   |
| December 5 | <a href="#">FWC26 Venue Specific Training Site at Memorial South Park Information Session Update</a> |