



Report Date: January 24, 2025

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-30

[Submit comments to the Board](#)

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: Director, Business Services
SUBJECT: Special Events Calendar 2025 – Major Events

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the Special Events Calendar 2025 – Major Events as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Civic open spaces such as parks and plazas, as well as admission-based facilities such as VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory, are popular sites for entertainment and celebrations of all natures and sizes. The Park Board's role in supporting special events is primarily that of a host, issuing over 1,500 permits annually for special events and other activities across its open space network and facilities; the Park Board also organizes several events for the benefit and enjoyment of Vancouverites and visitors to the city. The purpose of this report is to present the 2025 Calendar of Major Special Events for the Board's review and approval.

BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

As informed by the [Guidelines for Special Events](#), the [Special Events Policy \(2003\)](#), as well as current practices, the Park Board reviews and approves new major special events, as well as significant changes or revisions to existing major special events.

On May 13, 2019, the Board [directed staff to update the aforementioned policy and guidelines](#). Concurrent with this direction, the Board also instructed staff to maintain and support the Park Board's current portfolio of commercial events and activities but issued a moratorium on the introduction of any new commercial initiatives until after the Special Event Policy & Guidelines have been updated and approved by the Board.

On October 19, 2020, the Park Board approved the [VanPlay Framework](#), for Vancouver's [Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#). VanPlay sets out priorities and provides tools and policies to support the pursuit of equity, connectivity, and access to parks and recreation for all. The Framework provides a succinct method for referencing and implementing VanPlay directions. The 2025 Calendar of Special Events supports and aligns with VanPlay's directions to "Weave the City Together", "Welcome Everyone" and "Deliver Services Equitably".

On December 5, 2022, the Board [directed staff to lift the moratorium on new commercial event](#)

[initiatives in Vancouver parks](#), and communicate the decision to the public and the festival and event community.

On January 16, 2023, the Board passed the [“Think Big” Revenue Strategy motion](#) to prioritize and enable opportunities for increased commercial revenues. Subsequently, on July 17, 2023, the Board endorsed the Think Big Action Plan as presented in Appendix A in the [“Think Big” Revenue Strategy – Report Back: July 6, 2023](#), and validated the preliminary revenue-generating opportunities presented in the Plan, including attracting new corporate and commercial special events.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Special Events in Parks and Plazas

Civic open spaces such as parks and plazas, as well as admission-based facilities such as VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory are popular sites for entertainment and celebrations of all scopes and sizes. These activities fall within the Park Board’s mission of providing a wide variety of leisure and engagement opportunities for Vancouverites, and include community festivals, arts and cultural events, music concerts, sports tournaments and various celebrations.

These initiatives activate public spaces, foster community connectedness, enhance the vibrancy of our city, provide enriching arts and cultural experiences, and deliver important economic benefits by supporting tourism and enabling fundraising activities for many not-for-profit and charitable organizations. The Park Board’s role in supporting special events is primarily that of a host – accommodating events and activities in park spaces and plazas. Accordingly, the Park Board issues over 1,500 permits annually for special events and activities across its open space network, and over 100 permits for events and activities at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory. The Park Board also organizes and delivers a number of events for the benefit and enjoyment of Vancouverites and visitors to the city.

Special Events Permit Process

Designating use of a park location to an event organizer is accomplished through the special event permit process. The Park Board’s Special Event Policy & Guidelines set out the permit application requirements for event organizers, define the process for evaluation and selection, and inform event terms and conditions.

Large scale events involving spaces outside of the Park Board’s jurisdiction are coordinated in collaboration with those supporting partners and with the City of Vancouver’s Festival Expediting Staff Team Committee (FEST Committee). FEST Committee members include the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, BC Ambulance Service, BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, City Special Events, Traffic and Data Management, and Park Board Special Events staff.

Review and Approval Process

The Park Board reviews and approves new major special events, as well as significant changes or revisions to existing special events as they emerge. Major special events are defined as those activities which can have sizable impacts on public access to park space, effects on surrounding neighbourhoods, require exclusive use of an area, and/or require approval of specific conditions of use as outlined under Park Board by-laws (e.g. road closures, vending, licensed/alcohol service, ticketing, etc.). Subject to successful execution, new and modified events are added to the Park Board’s annual Calendar of Major Special Events.

DISCUSSION**2025 Calendar Overview**

The 2025 Calendar of Major Special Events is attached for the Board's review and approval (see Appendix A). The Calendar is based on events which have confirmed their intention to move forward in 2025 at the time this report was prepared. Also included in the Calendar are annual special events that have been approved in past years but do not yet have confirmed dates/locations for 2025 or are still awaiting confirmation.

The Calendar contains 104 major special events, including:

- 6 Park Board organized and delivered events;
- 2 events delivered by external partners at VanDusen Botanical Garden; and
- 96 events delivered by external partners across Vancouver parks and plazas.

These events are distributed throughout the year and throughout the Park Board network, with a noticeable seasonal peak during the spring and summer months, and a concentration of activity in Stanley Park, downtown and waterfront parks. The Calendar also sets out the required road closures in Stanley Park to accommodate marquee events.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Subject to Board approval, Park Board staff will work with organizers to finalize the financial terms and conditions for the use of park sites identified in Table 2 and 3 in a manner consistent with the Park Board's annual Fees & Charges framework. All expenses related to the delivery and execution of the events included in Table 2 and 3 will be borne by the respective event organizers; expenses related to the delivery of the Park Board organized events identified in Table 1 will be funded primarily through the Park Board's 2025 Operating Budget, and supported by corporate sponsorship where available.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Large scale special events in Vancouver parks, plazas and facilities activate public spaces, foster community connectedness, enhance the vibrancy of the city and provide enriching cultural experiences. Park Board staff have carefully considered the requirements and potential impacts of major special events planned for 2025 and are confident that they can be executed successfully and as intended. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the Special Events Calendar 2025 – Major Events attached as Appendix A.

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VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2025 –
MAJOR EVENTS

Table 1 – Park Board Organized Events

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Polar Bear Swim	English Bay Beach	Vancouver Park Board	1-Jan	1-Jan	L
Easter Train	Stanley Park Railway	Vancouver Park Board	18-Apr	21-Apr	V & T
Symphony at Sunset*	Sunset Beach Park	Vancouver Park Board & Vancouver Symphony Orchestra	TBD	TBD	
Ghost Train	Stanley Park Railway	Vancouver Park Board	10-Oct	31-Oct	V & T
Bright Nights	Stanley Park Railway	Vancouver Park Board & BC Professional Firefighters Burn Fund	28-Nov	3-Jan	V & T
Festival of Lights*	VanDusen Botanical Garden	Vancouver Park Board	TBD	TBD	V & L & T

Table 2 – Events at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory Organized by External Partners

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Sakura Days Japan Fair	VanDusen Botanical Garden	Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival & Japan Fair Association of Vancouver	12-Apr	13-Apr	V & L & T
All British Field Meet	VanDusen Botanical Garden	Westco Marketing Ltd	17-May	17-May	V & T

Table 3 – Events in Parks and Plazas Organized by External Event Producers

Events denoted in bold text require road closures in Stanley Park; additional details are provided at the end of Appendix A

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Lions Club & City of Vancouver Tree Chipping Event	Kitsilano Park John Hendry Park	City of Vancouver Engineering	4-Jan	5-Jan	
Riley Park Winter Farmers Market	Riley Park and Riley Park Parking Lot	Vancouver Farmers Markets	4-Jan 1-Nov	29-Mar 20-Dec	V & L
Spring Festival Celebration	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Plaza	Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver	1-Feb	2-Feb	V
First Half Marathon	David Lam Park English Bay Seawall Stanley Park Seawall	Vancouver International Marathon Society	8-Feb	9-Feb	
St. Patrick's Day 5K	Stanley Park Pipeline Rd. & Park Dr. East	St. Patrick's Day 5K	14-Mar	15-Mar	
The Big Picnic	David Lam Park	Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society	27-Mar	31-Mar	V & L
Trout Lake Farmers Market	Trout Lake Parking Lot	Vancouver Farmers Markets	5-Apr	25-Oct	V & L
Riley Park Summer Farmers Market	Riley Park Plaza	Vancouver Farmers Markets	5-Apr	25-Oct	V & L
Vaisakhi Parade*	Sunset Community Centre & Adjacent Spaces	Khalsa Diwan Society	11-Apr	12-Apr	
BMO Vancouver International Marathon	Stanley Park	Vancouver International Marathon Society	3-May	4-May	
Kitsilano Farmers Market	Kitsilano Community Centre Parking Lot	Vancouver Farmers Markets	4-May	26-Oct	V & L
Mother's Day Pow Wow	John Hendry Park	Trout Lake Community Centre	9-May	11-May	

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Knockout Dragon Boat Regatta	Creekside Park	False Creek Racing Canoe Club	10-May	10-May	V
Khalsa Diwan Sports Day*	Moberly Park Kensington Park Killarney Park Others - TBD	Khalsa Diwan Society	16-May	19-May	V
Vancouver International Children's Festival	Sutcliffe Park	Vancouver International Children's Festival Society	21-May	6-Jun	V & T
False Creek Women's Dragon Boat Regatta	Creekside Park	False Creek Women's Dragon Boat Team	24-May	24-May	
World Partnership Walk	Lumberman's Arch Stanley Park Seawall	Aga Khan Foundation	28-May	2-Jun	V
Dragon Boat Vessi 500M Regatta	Creekside Park	Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	30-May	1-Jun	V & L
Local Makers Summer Market	Kitsilano Beach Park	BMGM Enterprises Inc.	7-Jun	13-Sep	V
Commemorate Tiananmen Square Massacre Candlelight Vigil*	David Lam Park	Vancouver Society Support of Democratic Movement	4-Jun	4-Jun	V
RBC Run for the Kids	Riley Park	BC Children's Hospital Foundation	5-Jun	8-Jun	V
False Creek Farmers Market	Creekside Park	Vancouver Farmers Markets	5-Jun	2-Oct	V & L
The Vegan Market*	Locarno Beach Park	Peaces	5-Jun	18-Oct	V

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Go by Bike Week Wrap-up Event*	Creekside Park	HUB Cycle	6-Jun	6-Jun	
Italian Day on the Drive	Grandview Park	Italian Day Festival Society	6-Jun	8-Jun	V & L
Marpole Oakridge Community Day	Oak Park	Marpole Oakridge Community Association	7-Jun	7-Jun	
ACCESS Festival*	Emery Barnes Park	The Gathering Place	7-Jun	7-Jun	
JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes	Stanley Park	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation	7-Jun	7-Jun	
Fair in the Square	Victory Square	Central City Foundation	9-Jun	9-Jun	V
T100 Multisport Festival Vancouver	Jericho Beach Park Locarno Beach Park	Professional Triathletes Organization & Do North Events	9-Jun	17-Jun	
Bard on the Beach	Vanier Park Festival Site	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society	10-Jun	20-Sep	V & L & T
Point Grey Fiesta*	TBD	Point Grey Fiesta	TBD	TBD	V
Beach Soccer Blast*	Spanish Banks Beach Park	Vancouver United FC	13-Jun	15-Jun	
Tri-It Triathlon	Templeton Park	Exceleration Multisport Club	15-Jun	16-Jun	
Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival	Creekside Park	Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	20-Jun	22-Jun	V & L
Hillcrest Summer Festival*	Riley Park	Riley Park-Hillcrest Community Centre Association	21-Jun	21-Jun	
National Indigenous Peoples Day*	John Hendry Park	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	21-Jun	21-Jun	V
National Indigenous Peoples Day*	Oppenheimer Park	Carnegie Centre	21-Jun	21-Jun	
National Indigenous Peoples Day*	Emery Barnes Park	The Gathering Place	21-Jun	21-Jun	
Douglas Park Community Day	Douglas Park	Douglas Park Community Association	21-Jun	21-Jun	

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K	Kitsilano Beach Park Jericho Beach Park Spanish Banks Beach Vanier Park	Canada Running Series	21-Jun	22-Jun	
Eastside Pride	Grandview Park	Vancouver Pride Society	28-Jun	28-Jun	V
Vancouver International Jazz Festival*	David Lam Park	Coastal Jazz & Blues Society	28-Jun	29-Jun	V & L
Vancouver Mela	Moberly Park	Sarb Sanjhivalta Sewa Society of Canada	28-Jun	30-Jun	
Sunset Canada Day Celebration*	Sunset Park	Sunset Community Centre	1-Jul	1-Jul	V
Stanley Park Open	Stanley Park Tennis Courts	Tennis BC	4-Jul	20-Jul	V
Summer Cinema Series	Ceperley Park	Fresh Air Cinema	8-Jul	26-Aug	V
Vancouver Open Pro Beach Volleyball	Kitsilano Beach	Volleyball BC	11-Jul	13-Jul	V & L
Carnaval del Sol	Jonathan Rogers Park	Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	11-Jul	13-Jul	V & L & T
Union Gospel Mission BBQ	Oppenheimer Park	Union Gospel Mission	12-Jul	12-Jul	
ILWU Pensioners Picnic	New Brighton Park	ILWU Local 500	17-Jul	17-Jul	
Vancouver Folk Music Festival	Jericho Beach Park	Vancouver Folk Festival Society	18-Jul	20-Jul	V & L & T
Honda Celebration of Light	English Bay Beach Vanier Park Alexandra Park Sunset Beach Park	Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society	19-Jul	26-Jul	V & L & T

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Collingwood Days Festival	Gaston Park	Renfrew Community Centre	19-Jul	19-Jul	V
Shim's Ride	Jonathan Rogers Park	Shim's Ride	19-Jul	19-Jul	
Walk with the Dragon	Stanley Park Lumberman's Arch	SUCCESS Foundation	20-Jul	20-Jul	
Pride in Chinatown*	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens	Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden	26-Jul	26-Jul	L & T
Powell Street Festival	Oppenheimer Park	Powell Street Festival Society	1-Aug	3-Aug	V
Vancouver Dyke March	McSpadden Park Grandview Park	Vancouver Dyke March & Festival Society	2-Aug	2-Aug	V
Vancouver Pride Festival & Parade*	Creekside Park/David Lam Park	Vancouver Pride Society	2-Aug	3-Aug	V & L
KitsFest	Kitsilano Beach Park	Canada One Foundation	8-Aug	10-Aug	V & L
Vancouver Punjabi Mela*	Moberly Park	Vancouver Punjabi Mela Society	9-Aug	10-Aug	
African Descent Festival*	English Bay Beach Park	African Descent Society of BC	9-Aug	10-Aug	V
Festival of India	Creekside Park	Festival of India	16-Aug	18-Aug	V
Diner en Blanc*	TBD	Aly Armstrong Event Planning & Design	TBD	TBD	L & T
Beedie Rocks (Rock'N The Park)	Stanley Park	BrandLive	23-Aug	23-Aug	L & T
Turtle Island*	Sunset Beach Park	Land Back Records/VPB DAC	23-Aug	23-Aug	V
Community Sports Event*	Moberly Park	Sher-E Punjab Kabaddi Club	23-Aug	23-Aug	
Monstercat Compound*	Jonathan Rogers Park	Monstercat	23-Aug	24-Aug	V & L & T

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Vancouver Triathlon	Stanley Park Second Beach	Multisport Canada	30-Aug	1-Sep	V
Pinoy Fiesta	John Hendry Park	Philippine Canadian Cultural Society	30-Aug	31-Aug	V
Victory Square Block Party	Victory Square Park	The Student Radio Society Of UBC	31-Aug	31-Aug	
Vancouver Vegan Festival	Kitsilano Beach Park	Vancouver Vegan Festival	6-Sep	6-Sep	V
RBC GranFondo Whistler	Stanley Park	GranFondo Canada	6-Sep	6-Sep	
McSpadden County Fair	McSpadden Park	McSpadden County Fair	7-Sep	7-Sep	V
The Great Outdoors Comedy Festival	Stanley Park	Triostar Productions	12-Sep	14-Sep	V & T & L
Light Up Chinatown*	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens	Chinatown Foundation	12-Sep	14-Sep	L
Night Race*	Stanley Park	Running Room Canada	12-Sep	12-Sep	L
Bike the Night*	David Lam Park	HUB Cycling	TBD	TBD	
Terry Fox Run*	Ceperley Park	Terry Fox Foundation	14-Sep	14-Sep	
Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival*	Renfrew Park Slocan Park	Renfrew Park Community Centre	21-Sep	21-Sep	V
Day of the Longboat*	Jericho Sailing Centre Beach Area	UBC Recreation	20-Sep	28-Sep	V
Dragon Boat Fall Classic	Creekside Park	Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	27-Sep	27-Sep	L
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day*	John Hendry Park	Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society	30-Sep	30-Sep	
Mid-Autumn Festival*	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	3-Oct	5-Oct	L & T
Butterfly Run Vancouver*	Milton Wong Plaza False Creek Seawall	BC Women's Health Foundation	4-Oct	4-Oct	V

EVENT	SITE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE	VENDING (V)
					LICENSED (L)
					TICKETED (T)
					PRIVATE (P)
Grandville Island Turkey Trot	Creekside Park	Vancouver International Marathon Society	13-Oct	13-Oct	
ISEA XC Championships*	Jericho Beach Park	West Point Grey Academy	17-Oct	17-Oct	
Light the Night*	Lumberman's Arch Stanley Park Seawall East Lost Lagoon	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	20-Oct	20-Oct	V
Cross Country Meet*	John Hendry Park	Vancouver School Board	21-Oct	21-Oct	
Cross Country Sea-to-Sky Finals*	TBD	Vancouver School Board	22-Oct	22-Oct	
Cross Country Zone Finals*	TBD	Vancouver School Board	23-Oct	24-Oct	
Remembrance Day Ceremony	Stanley Park Japanese War Monument	Japanese Canadian Memorial	11-Nov	11-Nov	
Remembrance Day Ceremony	Victory Square	City of Vancouver External Relations & Protocol Office	11-Nov	11-Nov	
Remembrance Day Ceremony*	TBD	South Vancouver Veterans Association	11-Nov	11-Nov	
Winter Solstice Festival*	Various Locations in False Creek and Strathcona Areas	Secret Lantern Society	21-Dec	21-Dec	

- Events denoted with an '**' are subject to confirmation.
- Vending requests are subject to standard terms and conditions, unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- Licensed areas are subject to VPD, VFRS, and BCLCRB approval.
- Ticketed events are subject to Board approval.

Stanley Park Road Closures

The following recurrent annual events require a morning road closure in Stanley Park. Historically, traffic closures in Stanley Park have been limited to once per month between 6:00am and 10:30am during the months of March, April, May and September, as early morning road closures prior to 10:30am tend to have minimal impacts on Stanley Park operations and businesses. Organizers are strongly encouraged to ensure their events are concluded by 10:30am, and Park Board staff work closely with event organizers to inform park stakeholders in advance of event dates. Closures are generally not permitted during peak summer season in July and August.

Run/Walk Events

March 15, 2025	BMO St. Patrick's Day 5K 8:45am to 10:30am Closure on east side of the park	St. Patrick's Day 5K Attendance – 1,550
May 4, 2025	BMO Vancouver International Marathon 6:30am to 10:30am Closure on east side of the park	Vancouver International Marathon Society Attendance – 16,000
September 1, 2025	Vancouver Triathlon 6:00am to 10:30am Full closure of the park	Multisport Canada Attendance – 1,200
September 6, 2025	RBC GranFondo Whistler 3:00am to 10:00am Closure on east side of the park	GranFondo Canada Attendance – 4,500