



Park Board General Manager's Report March 31, 2025

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

Burrard Slopes Park Engagement Launch

The new Burrard Slopes Park is an almost one-hectare neighbourhood park located near the border of the Kitsilano and Fairview neighborhoods, offering much-needed green space and park amenities for residents in the rapidly densifying Broadway Corridor. The project area includes 6th and Fir Park, 5th and Pine Pop-up Park, a portion of the Arbutus Greenway, and a series of buildings that are under deconstruction to make space for the future park.

Round 2 public engagement will run from April 9 through April 30, will invite feedback on a draft concept plan which includes passive and active recreation options for all ages and abilities desired from the previous engagement events. An in-person open house event will be held at 6th and Fir Park from 11am to 2pm on April 26. Engineering staff will attend the event to share future active transportation connection projects at the Arbutus Greenway and nearby. The engagement activities include an online survey and project information hosted on the City's Shape Your City platform, social media posts, mailouts and email notifications.

Along with technical design considerations, feedback from round 2 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 fall, 2025. The original Host First Nations Referral sent in 2020 has been updated to inform them of the engagement process and to invite their involvement in the conceptual planning process.

Indigenous Info Night – Connection Indigenous Peoples with Parks & Recreation

On March 6, the Arts, Reconciliation & Culture department hosted an Indigenous Info Night at Sunrise Hall. There is a large Indigenous population in the lower mainland, but Indigenous peoples are underrepresented in Park Board programs, engagement and services. The purpose of this event was for Indigenous peoples to learn about the programs, resources and services that are available to First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals and organizations and for Park Board staff to connect with the Indigenous community. More than 100 Indigenous participants expressed interest in learning more, and over 50 First Nations, Metis and Inuit people attended in person.

Park Board staff gained a greater understanding of Indigenous community members and their needs. Indigenous community members gained awareness of the projects, programs and services that are available to them through the Park Board and ways to connect and get involved. Staff valued the important perspectives and contributions attendees shared on upcoming Capital projects.

This inaugural event was very well received by both staff and the Indigenous community. The goal is to host an even larger event 2 times a year, which would allow more people to participate from Park Board and the Indigenous community. This is an opportunity to bring Park Board and the Indigenous community together to share food, laughter and information with one another and to start building lasting relationships.



Reconciliation Training – Update

The Arts, Reconciliation & Culture (ARC) department organized a series of trainings for Park Board staff to learn about the origins and impacts of anti-Indigenous racism in colonial Canada with instructor Len Pierre.

The Leadership Team received the Transformative Leadership Training in February. On March 20, 2025, over 200 staff attended the Intro to Indigenous Cultural Safety Training online to build knowledge/practical tools to better serve Indigenous peoples. Attendees described the session as: *incredibly informative & engaging, fantastic, safe and inclusive, and enlightening and inspirational*. ARC plans to host more sessions soon, with the goal to have all Park Board staff receive this type of training.

Len Pierre uses this powerful quote from Justice Murray Sinclair in his training to illustrate how anti-Indigenous racism is embedded in our society and systems: *“While Indigenous children were being mistreated in residential schools by being told they were heathens, savages and pagans and inferior people – that same message was being delivered in the public schools of this country.”*

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

Council to receive a presentation on April 2, 2025, titled “Vancouver Fire Rescue Wildlife Risk Report”.

Council to enact a By-law Amendment on April 9, 2025, titled “[A By-law to amend the Code of Conduct By-law No. 12886 regarding independent reviews](#)”, which if approved would implement the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct By-law regarding investigations by the Integrity Commissioner’s Office to facilitate a third-party independent review.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: March 10 to March 31, 2025

Date	Topic
March 25	Kitsilano Community Centre Childcare Use of Park Space Engagement Summary