



Park Board General Manager's Report

June 16, 2025

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

Strathcona Food Security Programs

Strathcona Community Centre Association Food Security Programs support the community through food access, food skills and opportunities for community connection.

The Breakfast Program serves an average of 250 breakfasts every school day, and approximately 44,000 breakfasts each school year. Breakfast also includes a Breakfast Buddies food skills mentorship program for grade 6/7 students from the attached Lord Strathcona Elementary. Students help prepare the next day's breakfast, learn food skills and give back to their school community.

The Backpack Program provides food access to families each Friday for 44 weeks a year. There are currently 600 participants from 135 low-income families receiving food weekly, equalling over \$500,000 in donated food. The Backpack Program was designed to help families with supplies of food over the weekends—filling the gap when kids aren't able to access our school-based programs. Run by 2 staff and more than 20 volunteers, these programs are funded through donations and grants from foundations, the Park Board, and the City. They bring connection to community including member-led activities like cultural celebrations and workshops.

Three New Indigenous Gardens

The Park Board's Arts, Reconciliation & Culture department supports the city-wide implementation of the Local Food Systems Action Plan. One of the four goals of the plan is to Centre Indigenous Voices in Food Systems Work to Honour the Teaching that "Food is Medicine." To advance this goal, staff have supported Indigenous-led organizations to create three new community gardens and gathering spaces in parks.

Through her 3-year residency at the A-Frame in Stanley Park, Indigenous ethnobotanist Dr. T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss, has been engaging community members to grow an intergenerational teaching garden. In this place of cultural significance for Coast Salish peoples, Cease remediated the land by founding Chaythoose Garden, a legacy for all future artists and community members to connect with the land and each other.

Indigenous Women Rise drum group began in 2018 and became a society in 2022 to provide a space for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women to gather and heal together. Their drum circle and 215 garden at Beaconsfield Park provide good medicine for each other and a space to find their voice through the power of the drum. The women from the drum group feel a strong sense of belonging, connection and unity and honour the many Indigenous children and families who have been impacted by the residential school system.

Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society was founded by Squamish Council member Deborah Baker for First Nations, Inuit and Métis men, seeking traditional cultural knowledge and support in their healing journeys. The Sacred Fire Gathering Circle at Burrard View Park is being built by Indigenous fathers with the guidance of Tsleil-Waututh Nation Elder Fabian Williams along with the care and strength of the society Aunties.

19th Annual Arts & Health Exhibition & Showcase

On May 30, 150 seniors and Elders gathered at the 19th annual Arts & Health Exhibition and Gala Showcase at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, part of BC Senior's Week celebrations.

Arts & Health: Healthy Aging Through the Arts is a unique, vibrant partnership between the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Coastal Health, and community partners, that brings professional artists, seniors and Elders together in community centres across Vancouver for collaborative artmaking. Together they develop arts practices that focus on the creative expression of ideas and issues that are important to them through visual art, dance, writing, beading, weaving, filmmaking and more. The project provides a forum for expression and communication, exploration and imagination, which in turn fosters a sense of well-being and belonging.

Seniors and Elders are the largest growing sector of the population, and Arts & Health addresses many current issues, including:

- Our population is aging and marginalization is increasing amongst older adults.
- Current approaches to recreation are expanding to enrich and support seniors' wellness.
- Research demonstrates strong links between participation in the arts and health.

This annual Exhibition, Showcase and lunch celebrates older adult innovation, creativity, resilience and contributions to community.

English Bay Pedestrian Path Lighting and Ramp Paving Renewal

The English Bay Pedestrian Path Lighting and Ramp Paving Renewal project is complete. The repairs restored six light posts with low-level luminaires to reduce light pollution to protect the coastal wildlife, while the new asphalt ramp has improved accessibility and safety for pedestrians and provided an overall enhanced aesthetic at English Bay.

The work was managed by the Park Board's Archaeology, Infrastructure & Environment team, with construction delivered internally by Park Board Operations in collaboration with City of Vancouver Engineering Operations.

South Korean Forest Services Delegation

On May 29, Park Board staff hosted a delegation from the South Korean Forest Services to share insights on urban forest and park management. The presentation highlighted Vancouver's strategic approach to urban forest management, biodiversity conservation, and community stewardship. This was followed up with a tour of Stanley Park, showcasing the Hemlock Looper moth mitigation work and forest management practices.

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

Council to receive a report on June 17, 2025, titled "[2025 Homelessness Services Grants](#)", which would approve 18 Homelessness Services grants totaling \$43,000 from the 2025 Arts, Culture and Community Services Housing Services Operating Budget.

Council to receive a report for information on June 18, 2025, titled "[2026-2030 Budget Outlook](#)", which outlines the City's projected Operating and Capital financial outlook based on current state service levels.

Council to receive a report on June 18, 2025, titled "[2025 Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#)", which would approve an increase of \$25.4M to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, and an increase of \$32M to the Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: June 2 to June 16, 2025

Date	Topic
June 3	Community Centre Strategy Implementation – High-Level Functional Program
June 11	Jericho Pier Rehabilitation Project – Status Update
June 12	Andy Livingstone Park Playground at Crosstown Elementary School Update
June 13	Reimagine Kitsilano Pool Feasibility Study