



Park Board General Manager's Report September 16, 2025

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

Summer Day Camps 2025

Community Centre Associations, with support from the Park Board, have had another successful Summer Day Camp season. Each week over 1500 elementary aged children, 260 youth, and 130 preschool aged children were able to attend safe, affordable, and inclusive day camp programs full of fun activities and day trips. That's over 15,000 total spaces available during the 8 weeks. As well, hundreds of other children attended specialty camps that ran for shorter periods and focussed on a specific topic such as tennis or science.

Park Board's Access Services again collaborated with the Community Centre Associations to provide 4 supported summer day camps. 120 of the spaces were reserved as supported camp spaces for children with additional support needs. Other Associations funded additional staffing to ensure they could meet the needs of all children wishing to attend.

Additionally, approximately 270 staff were employed in these programs, a majority of which are youth and young adults from local neighbourhoods. Many of these staff attended day camp programs at their community centre as children, before moving into leadership roles.

2025 Inner-City Youth Golf Program

The Inner-City Youth Golf Program was conducted from August 25 – August 29 at McCleery Golf Course with 25 children in attendance from three community centres in the Downtown East Side neighbourhood. Participating community centres included RayCam, Thunderbird and Strathcona.

This was the 26th year of the program and in honour of Muncie Booth's retirement, and to secure his legacy, the program has been rebranded, "The Muncie Booth Inner-City Youth Golf Program".

Funds raised for the program provided daily transportation, a hot brunch each day, professional coaching, t-shirts, caps, prizes, and many fond memories. Each day the children moved through three different stations, one at the driving range, one at the putting green and one at the short game area learning new skills and preparing for the final day skills competition.

Tom Monaghan, Golf Course Operator for McCleery, stated, "*We feel very fortunate to be able to host these children who may never have an opportunity to visit a golf course or play this wonderful game. Along the way they learn many important skills that golf teaches us such as perseverance, honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, courtesy, and judgement. These are also life skills taught in the First Tee program, and we intend to partner with The First Tee program for our 2026 version of the Inner-City Youth Golf Program. It really is a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of these children and on the faces of our coaches and volunteers who consider this their best week of the year.*"

Tatlow Playground Renewal

Improvements to the playground at the south end of Tatlow Park were recently completed and reopened to the community in August.

The renewed playground includes accessible surfacing, a climber with monkey bars and slides, a variety of swings, a wooden playhouse and trampoline. The playground connects to a quiet gathering area and the recently day lighted creek through an informal basalt and woodchip path. Nature play elements include balance logs, boulders, plantings and a sculpted log that was part of a previous Biennale installation. The piece, by artist Hugo Franca, has been restored and relocated to the Tatlow Park playground. The existing mature Beech tree will feature a custom circular bench that is to be installed later this month by Park Operations.

Connections to the fieldhouse and larger park to the north have been improved with the realignment and replacement of the central park path.

The playground has been busy since it reopened, and park staff have received very positive feedback from the community

Collingwood Park Renewal

Construction of the Collingwood Park improvements were completed in July, bringing to fruition the Joyce Collingwood community's vision for this much-loved park in East Vancouver. New amenities include a fully renovated playground with accessible surfacing, a climber, multiple styles of swings, a carousel, trampoline and zip-line. There is an accessible sand and water play feature bordered by a deck and log playhouse. A new recirculating splash pad replaces a 1950's wading pool, expanding access to water play for the community. The basketball court was also upgraded including new surfacing, fencing and integrates a skateboard feature on the northern edge.

Connections to the new park amenities have been improved with additional paths that feature diverse seating options and picnic tables. Infiltration of run-off from the playground and spray park is facilitated by a storage vault installed under the raingarden. Twenty-three new trees have been installed along with accent planting and a small wildflower meadow on the southwest edge. Additional improvements to the park will occur in 2026 when the existing fieldhouse is scheduled to be replaced.

The park has been extremely well used since it reopened and has been very well received by this densely populated community.

Prince Edward Playground and Spray Park Improvements

Improvement work at Prince Edward playground and spray park was completed in May to address ongoing issues and enhance the play experience. The existing play features had become worn due to heavy use by the community and the on-site elementary school. Staff replaced the climbing net, installed a play hut, and added a new disk swing to provide a wider variety of play options.

Fully accessible pour-in-place rubber surfacing replaced the previous wood fibre, reducing barriers for people with limited mobility. At the spray park, new stone seating was installed to resolve muddy areas, and operations staff addressed minor issues to further improve the overall experience.

Heather Park Off Leash Area

The new off leash dog area (OLA) at Heather Park opened this spring and increases access for dog off-leash activity in two underserved neighbourhoods: Mount Pleasant and Fairview. The concept design was presented to the Board for decision in June of 2023 and construction completed this May. The area's design was shaped by feedback from over 1,300 people who participated in two rounds of public engagement.

The new 1,200 square meter OLA offers a large open space for dogs to explore, as well as a series of agility features, including a ramp, stepping stones and hurdles. Additional seating offers a place for owners to relax while their pups let off steam and two- and four-legged visitors will also have access to a new drinking fountain and dog bowl.

Granville Park Off Leash Area

The new off-leash area at Granville Park opened this summer and features two designated off-leash areas. The concept design was presented to the Board for decision in June of 2023 and construction completed this August.

The primary space provides a large open area designed for larger or high-energy dogs to play and socialize. A separate section has been created to offer smaller or more timid dogs a safe and comfortable environment for recreation. This new dog park serves two priority areas, Kitsilano and Fairview, as identified in the People Parks and Dogs Strategy and features new agility features and logs as natural play elements as well as other amenities such as accessible pathway, drinking fountain, seating, and shade.

Emery Barnes Off Leash Area Renewal

Emery Barnes Park is a 0.8 ha neighbourhood park located in the Downtown neighbourhood. Completed in 2010, this off-leash area (OLA) serves the second highest number of licensed dogs living within 1 km of an OLA, second only to Nelson Park located in the West End neighbourhood. The concept design was presented to the Board for decision in June 2023 and construction was completed in early July 2025.

Emery Barnes Park OLA was prioritized for renewal in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan as the People Parks and Dogs strategy identified Downtown as being a priority neighbourhood in need of additional and renewed dog off-leash areas to support the high number of licensed dogs in the neighbourhood. The park condition also led to the prioritization for renewal.

Improvements for the renewal and expansion include pet-specific synthetic turf, agility elements, boulders, benches, seating areas, stairs, walkways, new trees and planting beds. The large portion of the OLA also includes a sloped walkway for improved accessibility.

CRAB Park Improvements

CRAB Park is a 3.31 ha neighbourhood park located in the Downtown neighbourhood and leased to the City of Vancouver by the VFPA. It is the only public green space located in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) neighbourhood that provides access to the water.

In July 2019, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) announced a donation of \$1M for improvements to CRAB Park to offset the impacts of the Centerm Expansion Project and South Shore Access Project. Park Board staff identified the existing playground and splash pad as the priority investment opportunity, due to the playground age and condition.

The playground and splash pad design were developed in-house by Park Board staff and constructed by Park Board's Operations team. The renewed playground features a large play structure, tot swing set, bouncy riders, universal carousel, rubber surfacing for improved accessibility, benches, tables with seating and new trees. The splash pad has been refreshed with new paint and paved surfacing. Construction initiated in mid-April and was completed in late July 2025. Construction initiated in mid-April 2025 and was completed in early August 2025.

The Vancouver Park Board is grateful to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and DP World for their financial contributions towards this project.

Andy Livingstone Fence Pilot

Park Board staff have prioritized and completed the installation of a new fence along the northern edge of the playground used by Crosstown Elementary at Andy Livingstone Park. This temporary fence is secured to the ground and better delineates and defines the space used for school programming.

This is a pilot project, which will allow for future improvements following feedback from park and playground users.

The school principal has shared that staff, students and the PAC have responded very positively to the fencing. It clearly delineates the playground space in a way that is very helpful for day-to-day operations.

Park Board and VSB staff will monitor to evaluate the impact of this project, and will report back to the Board before making any permanent improvements

Queen Elizabeth Park Upgrades

The Park Board Building and Structure Maintenance Team, operating out of the Evans Service Yard, has recently completed several enhancements at Queen Elizabeth Park. A new aluminum and simulated wood water wheel has been designed, fabricated, coated, and installed entirely in-house for display within the Bloedel Conservatory.

Additionally, the base arched bridge in the Queen Elizabeth Quarry Garden has been upgraded with architectural railings to address previous safety and liability concerns, as it previously lacked any fall protection. The bridge has also been modified to meet accessibility standards by softening the arch curve. These improvements have transformed the bridge into a popular public photo spot. A new bench area has also been installed nearby, available through the Bench Dedication Program.

All design and construction work for these projects was completed in-house.

United Way Chili Cook-off Booth Awards

Every Fall the City of Vancouver proudly supports United Way BC through an annual fund-raising campaign. A popular staple of the City's campaign is the Chili Cook-off which took place this year on September 11 at City Hall. Staff sign-up to compete to serve their favorite chili recipes to coworkers as they compete for hotly contested trophies.

This year the award for Best Booth went to the Park's Board Structures and Fabrication and Coatings and Graphics teams from Evans Yard. The team of chefs Petri Harju, Tino Pezzotti, Ryan Weber and Dwayne Molina, and artists Darren Peigan and Brad Dinwoodie collaborated on a great 'marketing strategy' that included an interactive "add your face" photo booth and dollar store sparkler electrodes. Well done indeed to the "Weld Done Chili Team".

Staff from Strategic Operations and Board Relations took home the Peoples' Choice Award for their "So Plaid You Came" camping-themed booth. Michael Marousek, Ramneet Samra, Sarah Iacoe, Amy Liebenberg, Ganimul Singh, and Kaeli McArter all worked together on everything from cooking to design to create a cozy, outdoors-inspired booth complete with all the camping essentials – toasted marshmallows included.

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

Council to receive a report on September 16, 2025, titled "[Public Realm Advertising Framework](#)", which if approved would guide the City's approach to third-party advertising in the public realm.

Council to receive a report on September 17, 2025, titled "[Contract Award for Operator \(Lease\) for VanDusen Botanical Garden Restaurant](#)", which would authorize staff to negotiate an agreement for Operator of VanDusen Botanical Garden Restaurant.

Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled "[Prioritizing the Completion and Delivery of Community Facilities and Infrastructure in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan](#)", which would direct staff to prioritize the renewal and delivery of core community facilities and essential infrastructure, with a focus on aging and end-of-life assets.

Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled "[Accelerating the Turf Field Upgrade at Beaconsfield Park for Inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan](#)", which would direct staff to prioritize the Beaconsfield Park gravel field turf upgrade for inclusion in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan

Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled "[Greening the City – Enhancing Livability and the Tree Canopy Through Healthy Afforestation](#)", which direct staff to report back on actions to support afforestation and micro-forest initiatives across the city.

Council to receive a report on September 18, 2025, titled "[Audit of Recreation Facility Asset Management](#)", which would outline the Recreation Facility Asset Management performance audit carried out by the Auditor General and recommendations for improvement.

Date	Topic
July 30	Outdoor Pool Operational Changes
July 31	2025 Q2 Park Board Financial Update
August 5	‘Line ‘Em Up’ Park Basketball Court Initiative
August 18	Unsolicited Proposal – Grays Park Basketball Court Upgrade
August 19	New Brighton Outdoor Pool Closure
August 22	New Brighton Outdoor Pool Re-Opening
August 25	Andy Livingstone Park Playground at Crosstown Elementary School Update
August 26	Extension of Kitsilano Pool Operating Season
August 29	Swimming Support by Parents
September 5	Disc Golf Plan Public Engagement Launch
September 5	Kerrisdale Arena Opening – Update
September 11	TransLink Parking Tax Rate Increase