



Park Board General Manager's Report November 3, 2025

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

Sustenance Festival 2025

Sustenance Festival is a food-focused platform that celebrates land and food-inspired workshops and events in Vancouver public spaces. Since 2009, the city-wide festival has provided a unique space to explore the growing concerns about food.

This year the Land and Food Systems team hosted a thought-provoking panel discussion with international food leaders and educators moderated by Dawn Morrison, a global leader in Indigenous Food Sovereignty. A land welcome was shared by Gabriel George, the Director of Language, Culture and Protocol at Tsleil-Waututh Nation and a blessing was offered by Mayan Elders from the UBC Mayan Exile Garden and Ancestral Food Ways Society.

Throughout October and November, 24 community food partner organizations also hosted events including cultural food gatherings, canning and pickling workshops, land and water celebrations, and garden tours.

Sustenance Festival at Community Centres

Many Community Centre Associations offer food focused programs year-round. The offerings range from educational and cooking classes to food security programs as seen at Strathcona and Kitsilano.

Some of these programs were highlighted during the sustenance festival. Some examples include a four-part Kurdish cooking series at Strathcona Community Centre, where participants connected around traditions and culture. At Renfrew Park Community Centre, the 2SLGBTQIA+ find a safe space in the community kitchen to meet community members, share, recipes, and cook together. Canning 101 is also being offered at Hastings Community Centre, where participants learn about food science while canning their own jelly.

George Wainborn Park Temporary Fencing

In order to address a series of concerns related to unsanctioned off-leash dog activity in George Wainborn Park, staff have been coordinating with Animal Services and addressing the situation by taking several key actions. To ensure children are protected from off-leash dogs, Park Board staff will be implementing a temporary fence to clearly separate the playground from the adjacent lawn area. New signs will also be installed to inform the public of by-law requirements.

Construction signage was posted the week of October 27 and implementation is targeted to begin the week of November 10. Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the fence and consider adjustments as required.

Animal Services has been proactive in their approach to addressing concerns at George Wainborn Park including increased patrols to provide education and enforcement as well as actively engaging in a promotional campaign to help address the issue of unsanctioned dog-off leash activity in the City and the importance of leashing and licensure. Dog owners are encouraged to visit downtown dog off leash areas at Emery Barnes Coopers and Sunset Beach Parks.



Villages Planning Program

Staff are excited to share a brief update on the Villages Planning Program, led by the City's Planning Department with support from Park Board Planning. Engagement on Emerging Directions is launching on November 5, 2025. The program focuses on enabling missing middle housing and strengthening 17 local commercial areas and will be a key part of delivering the upcoming Vancouver Official Development Plan. Growth will be gradual and dispersed, and amenities will be delivered over time through development like patios, ships, and community space, as well as city-wide programs like upgrades to parks, plazas, and community centres.

Staff will be looking at opportunities for new parks and green space in large redevelopment sites. The final draft plan is expected to be presented to Council for decision in Q2 2026.

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

Council to receive a report on November 4, 2025 titled "[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall 2025 Intake](#)" which would approve 18 new community sport event grants totaling \$118,500.

Council to receive a report on November 4, 2025, titled "[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Record](#)", which would endorse the Auditor General's budget request to fund the operations of the OAG for 2026.

Council to receive a report on November 5, 2025, titled "[Contract Award for Construction Services – Arbutus Greenway and West 41st Avenue Intersection Improvements](#)", which would approve a contract award to All Roads Construction for an estimated contract value of \$8.4M to be funded from the 2023-2026 Capital Budget.

Council to consider a motion on November 5, 2025, titled "[Ensuring Continuity of the Women's Equity Strategy Following the Closure of the Equity Office](#)", which would direct staff to report back on the status of the Women's Equity Strategy and engage the Women's Advisory Committee.

Council to consider a motion on November 5, 2025, titled "[Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#)", which calls for the creation of a Gender-based Violence Prevention Task Force and the development of a City-wide strategy to strengthen prevention, coordination, and accountability across all sectors.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: October 20 to November 3, 2025

Date	Topic
October 21	Kerrisdale Arena Opening – Update
October 24	Refabrication of <i>Plenty</i> Sculpture at Hillcrest Park