



Park Board General Manager's Report July 27, 2026

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

PIBC Award

On June 4, 2026, the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) awarded the Stanley Park Mobility Study an Honorable Mention in the Research & New Directions category. PIBC annually recognizes the professional work and individual accomplishments of members across British Columbia and the Yukon through its awards and recognition program. On September 15, 2025, the Vancouver Park Board approved the Stanley Park Mobility Study. The study proposes a strategy to reshape Stanley Park's transportation system over the next 20 years, by managing increased visitor numbers without expanding road space. The study identifies the opportunities and challenges of reducing private vehicle traffic while maintaining visitor experience and improving access to the park.

Park Board staff and consultant team - Mott MacDonald, and MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement - worked closely to conduct primary research and engage broadly with the public and park stakeholders to develop this important plan for Stanley Park's future. This recognition highlights the leadership and innovation demonstrated by our staff in shaping the future of park mobility.

Little Mountain Public Plaza

On July 24, the City announced completion of the Little Mountain City Building and Public Plaza. The site includes a 6-storey City Building hosting childcare, a neighbourhood house, and social housing, as well as a public plaza that will be maintained and operated by the Park Board.

The Public Plaza and City Building are key public benefits resulting from the 2016 Little Mountain redevelopment. A public park will be delivered in a future phase of the development.

VanDusen Membership and Respite Fund

In January 2025, a new joint operating agreement between Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VBPR) and the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) was implemented. It included a new Garden Membership approach where both organizations contributed to membership growth, and a new revenue share model.

Overall membership was up by 14.25% in 2025. These results were largely thanks to the joint marketing efforts of the VBPR and VBGA, as well as the creation of a new VBGA Respite Fund. By the end of Q2, active memberships reached 18,310, marking a 14.43% increase compared to year end 2025. This is thanks to the VPB and VBGA staff working together on joint promotion and messaging, and front of house coordination ensuring high quality visitor experiences.

Thanks to public support, the Respite Fund breaks down barriers by distributing Garden Memberships to 36 organizations at the forefront of mental health care in our community. We serve a diverse range of partner organizations, from the Vancouver School Board to the Black Therapy and Advocacy Foundation. This 'social prescribing' ensures participants enjoy 100% free restorative time in nature, something proven to be clinically effective in improving mental health outcomes. More than 1,900 people have taken part in the Respite Fund, representing an estimated 7,660 therapeutic experiences in the Gardens. By the end of 2026, this number is expected to grow to almost 3,000 individuals, and 15,600 therapeutic experiences.

Trillium Park Mural

In 2024, Park Operations staff provided a list to the Park Board Arts, Reconciliation and Culture team of “high-graffiti” parks to explore creative options to prevent vandalism by creating community ownership and connection to “place” to foster respect. The Trillium Park site was chosen for an introductory mural project which could lay the foundation for a multi-layered approach to graffiti-management in parks. The west wall mural was completed in July 2026 by artist Rachel De Freitas.

Art in the Park Opening Celebration

On Thursday July 9, Art in the Park at Andy Livingstone Park celebrated the opening of its 6th year. Art in the Park is a community engaged art project bringing together Elders from Carnegie Community Center and Artists in residence in a collaborative summer long art project, uniting the diverse communities that call Andy Livingstone home.

This year’s Opening Celebration was started in a good way by Musqueam Elder Mary Point, who welcomed everyone to the project. Carnegie Elders Marr Dorvault and Les Nelson spoke about the history of the project and their involvement, and Carnegie’s lexwst’i:lem Drum Group lead the event in an interactive performance that got everyone singing, dancing and drumming. The event finished with a few hours of art making with artists in residence Lisa Marr and Paolo Davanzo. Art in the Park runs Thursdays and Sundays from 2pm – 6pm in Andy Livingstone Park until September 17.

CRAB Park Art Project

In July 2025, several improvements were completed at CRAB Park, including a playground renewal and splash pad refresh. Project staff have been working closely with the Arts, Reconciliation, and Culture (ARC) team to respond to local Nations’ requests for cultural visibility within the park.

Park Board staff invited the following artists representing xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), and Urban Indigenous communities to engage with youth at the Ray Cam community centre to inform their artworks: Chrystal Sparrow, Chief Janice George and Buddy Joseph, Candace Thomas, and Bracken Hanuse Corlett.

The artwork is now designed into select playground panels and painted directly onto the splash pad surface. To accommodate this work, the spray park at CRAB Park was temporarily closed until the end of June. The Vancouver Park Board is grateful to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and DP World for their financial contributions towards this project

Cultural Fires in Parks

A new email contact has been created to receive inquiries regarding cultural fires in parks at culturalfire@vancouver.ca. Staff developed an internal process to permit fires in partnership with the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services and under the direction of Park Operations. This process has proven effective for internal coordination and communication. However, mitigating vandalism of cultural infrastructure in parks may require a more strategic community engagement approach.

Building stronger relationships with sites and fostering connections among community groups could help ensure the longevity of investments and enhance community safety

New Artwork at sḥəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 Rainbow Park

sḥəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7, which translates to Rainbow in English, was the first park in Vancouver to be gifted a name by the three local Nations in the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm and Skwxwú7mesh Snichim languages.

The park's sky frame banners feature rotating designs by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał artists. New banner designs will be installed this summer so keep your eyes on the sky(frames). Colourful park signage will soon be installed, featuring the park name and original banner artwork. The public can learn more about the park, the naming process and how to pronounce the name at the [sḥəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 Storymaps webpage](#).

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

Council to receive a report on July 28, 2026, titled “[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Report](#)”, which would direct staff to annually compile and publicly report to Council on the value of the City’s financial contributions to each operator (maintenance, lease grant, operating grants) to support fulsome accountability to the public.

Council to receive a report on July 28, 2026, titled “[Rezoning: 906-982 West 18th Avenue, 907-975 West 19th Avenue and 3403-3415 Laurel Street](#)”, which proposes a 374 square meter park, alongside small-scale housing options. This rezoning is an example of how park board staff work collaboratively with city staff to achieve park provision through development processes.

Council to receive a report on July 28, 2026, titled “[1905 Ogden Avenue: New Lease Agreement for the Vancouver Maritime Museum, and Sublease Agreement for the Operation of a Floating Barge with Hydrotherapy Activities, to be Located at the Heritage Harbour Marina](#)”, which would execute a new agreement with the Vancouver Maritime Museum and authorize a sublease for the operation of a floating barge in Heritage Harbour.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 13 to July 27

Date	Topic
July 16	Trout Lake and New Brighton Concessions - New Operators
July 17	City-wide Development and Design Guidelines - Parks and Recreation Components