



July 6, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Amit Gandha – Director of Parks
SUBJECT : **Beach Logs Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

In response to several enquiries and to comments made at the recent Board meeting, the purpose of this memo is to provide an update and information regarding logs on Vancouver beaches, which were originally removed in response to the pandemic and the need for social distancing. The logs have since been kept off the beaches in light of several learnings that arose from that change.

Safety

- Since removing the logs, staff have found there to be fewer needles, broken glass and other hazards. It also provides clearer sight lines across the beaches for rangers, operations and aquatics staff, and the police.
- There are also fewer hazards regarding individuals that may be behind a log. Often morning work was delayed as a thorough inspection was required to check if any individuals were behind a log before work could begin. With clear lines of sight across the beaches, these areas also became safer for staff and public using them in the early morning.

Cleanliness

- Previously, people would just walk away from their trash. Once the logs were removed, we noticed an immediate reduction in the amount of garbage left behind.

Maintenance

- With logs removed, crews are able to groom the sand more frequently and efficiently, as it became less time consuming to relocate every log for this work.
- Leaving a row of logs at the back of the beach helps to prevent sand blowing back onto trails/greenery, particularly at Kitsilano Beach, where the path is lower than the beach.

Space

- Removing the logs has allowed more room for people to spread out; areas between the logs were often an awkward distance for people to set up a spot.

Reducing damage:

- Reducing the number of logs also ensures that when king tides and other extreme weather moves in, there is less of a risk of injury or damage to infrastructure.

We have also heard that the logs can help people with mobility challenges get up and down from the sand, so there is more work to be done in creating a strategic plan to ensure accessibility is supported. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) is one of the groups being



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

consulted in this ongoing work. Staff will be using the above findings and consultation with PDAC to strategically place logs where needed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Amit Gandha". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amit Gandha (*he/him*)
Director of Parks

/ec/jg/clc

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications