



December 23, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Manager, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture

SUBJECT : **Burrard View Park Current Community Projects – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the current community projects and in response to a number of concerns that have been raised by community members from the neighbourhood in regards to the consultation process, adherence to boundaries, and operational safety and maintenance concerns. Work on site is led by the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation (**VUFFF**) and the Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society (**EIS**) at Burrard View Park.

CONTEXT

Burrard View Park is a 2.76-hectare neighbourhood park that serves many user-groups. The park provides several amenities, including two leased buildings providing hospice and daycare, tennis courts, playground, public washrooms, fieldhouse residency, a large dog off-leash area (43% of total park area) and the board approved food forest (2.5% of total park area).

[VanPlay](#) equity initiative zones provide information on the level of park and recreational services for neighbourhoods city-wide. Burrard View Park is situated in a well-served area with park and recreational amenities based on population density and proximity to park land. As indicated in VanPlay's inventory and analysis, the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood is one of the best served neighbourhoods in the city for sport and active outdoor recreation with 8 park playing fields of all grades, 5 ball diamonds, 3 basketball courts, and abundant passive-use park space.

However, according to the VPB and Council approved [2025 Urban Forest Strategy Update](#), Hastings-Sunrise is a low canopy neighbourhood. Tree planting such as the Vancouver Urban Food Forest supports the Park Board's objective to increase canopy cover in this area from 18% to 25%. [Objective 3.2 \(page 56\)](#): in the strategy recommends supporting volunteers, NGOs, schools, and neighborhood groups in urban forest stewardship. Enhancing the sustainability of the park stewardship programs by securing funding, pursuing grants, resourcing, and measuring success through volunteer engagement and goal setting is one action identified to support canopy growth and mitigate heat island and climate change impacts.

Further, Burrard View Park is a few blocks from a high-priority area for increasing urban agricultural projects based on mapping and inventory data from the 2021 Board approved [Local Food Systems Action Plan](#)

OVERVIEW

There are currently four community-led projects and one Park Board-led playground renewal at Burrard View Park in partnership with the Arts, Reconciliation, & Culture (**ARC**) team, three of which have active agreements signed by the Vancouver Park Board (**VPB**) General Manager (**GM**):

- **VUFFF Food Forest** - *Neighbourhood Matching Fund Memorandum of Agreement (2023-2027)*
- **VUFFF Fieldhouse Residency** - *Fieldhouse Residency Licence Program Agreement (2023-2025, renewed for 2026-2028)*
- **EIS Sacred Fire** - *Neighbourhood Matching Fund Memorandum of Agreement (2024-2028)*
- **EIS Carving** - Temporary VPB storage infrastructure with no formal community agreement (Oct 2025-June 2026)
- **Playground Renewal** – Scheduled for 2026; anticipated availability to the public in Q4 2026

Public engagement for the Neighbourhood Matching Fund projects includes on site signage and the projects are selected by a Board-approved advisory committee. In the case of the VUFFF Food Forest, the project underwent additional public engagement per the Urban Agriculture process, detailed below.

Public engagement for the Fieldhouse Residencies is not a requirement of the program. The residencies are temporary in nature and reviewed every three years, with the potential for one renewed cycle per residency. The residency opportunities are posted on the Park Board website, and advertised through Park Board social media, community centres, and various community arts and food partners. They are approved through a selection committee composed of staff and former fieldhouse activation participants.

BACKGROUND

VUFFF Food Forest In 2020, the VUFFF submitted an expression of interest application to the Vancouver Park Board for a new community garden in Hastings-Sunrise area. Following the Urban Agriculture process ([Urban Agriculture Garden Guide page 8-9](#)), public engagement for this new garden was completed from November 2020 until March 2021. A second round of public engagement was also completed using a Shape Your City survey from November to December 2021 to determine the best location for the garden within Burrard View Park.

[On March 30, 2022, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved](#) the southeast site option (red polygon **figure 1**) for the food forest project with the exact siting to be determined by the GM, subject to the findings of an archaeological investigation of the site. The archaeological investigation of the site has been completed using ground penetrating radar followed by shovel testing (purple polygon on **figure 2**). During the archaeological investigation one area within the project area was noted as a protected archaeology site (DhRs-1413 red polygon **figure 3**) with restrictions for digging in that zone. The remaining surveyed area was approved by the archaeological team for digging and food forest planting.

In 2022, VUFFF were successful applicants of the VPB [Neighbourhood Matching Fund \(NMF\)](#) to support land and food projects at Oxford and Burrard View Park with a Memorandum of Agreement (**MOA**) signed by the GM. A community garden licence agreement will replace the existing MOA in early 2026 for the 772 m² proposed area. The community garden licence agreement area will be within the approved dig area with the exact siting confirmed by the GM based on the archaeological report and VUFFF food forest design.

The food forest was initiated on November 13th, 2025 with 10 fruit trees planted by the community. The trees were planted within the licence agreement area, as shown in **figure 4**.

This food forest urban project is well supported by the VPB approved [Local Food Systems Action Plan 2021](#) and the VPB and City Council approved [Urban Forest Strategy Update 2025](#) to increase forest canopy and access to land and food systems for the community.



Figure 1: Board report Southeast proposed area



Figure 2: Archaeological survey area



Figure 3: Archaeological impact assessment area



Figure 4: Trees planted within licence agreement area

VUFFF Fieldhouse Residency VUFFF was the successful applicant for a 3-year [VPB's Fieldhouse residency](#) in 2023 to host community programming in the park. In light of the delays to planting the food forest as a result of archaeological investigation, VUFFF has been offered a 3-year renewal agreement for 2026-2028 to be signed prior to January 15, 2026. As described in

their foundation's vision, VUFFF has formed partnerships with several Indigenous organizations within the community including Aboriginal Mothers' Centre and Eagles Inspirit. They collaborate with these partner organizations through space sharing, knowledge exchange, and collective programming. VUFFF offers several programs including work parties, arts, crafts and plant circles, as well as [Dreaming Circles](#) which involves occasional night-time use.

EIS Sacred Fire Eagles Inspirit were successful applicants for the [NMF](#) in 2024 to install a sacred fire and gathering area at Burrard View Park. Public consultation for NMF happens in three ways; through two community letters of support, adjudication by a public jury, and signage about the upcoming land change posted on site for two-weeks prior to installation. After these consultation steps, the sacred fire was installed along with community members and in consultation with the fire-keeper from Tsleil-Waututh Nation. A locked cover was constructed and installed by VPB operations staff (**figure 5**). VPB placed beach logs around the sacred fire pit for community seating and gathering for all park users.

Like all NMF projects, a MOA for this project was signed by the GM in 2024 and the installation was completed in spring 2025 with the first ceremonial fire hosted by permission from the VPB and a burn permit from Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS) on June 21, 2025.

This sacred fire pit was installed within the Board approved proposed Southeast licence agreement area to ensure it was within the archaeological reviewed area (**figure 6**). The fire project is a distinct and separate project from the food forest installed by VUFFF and is governed separately by EIS with their own NMF MOA. This MOA is for a 5-year term from 2024-2028 which includes two years for installation and a minimum of three years of stewardship.

Ceremonial fires are a supported activity by both VPB and VFRS at approved locations and in coordination with an Indigenous Firekeeper. Burn permits for every occurrence of ceremonial fires are obtained through VPB and VFRS via a process approved by both agencies.



Figure 5: Sacred fire and cover



Figure 6: Sacred fire infrastructure (orange circle)

EIS Carving EIS were successful applicants for a reconciliation grant from the Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver for a house post community carving project with Squamish carver John Spence. The purpose of the project is for EIS to host carving workshops for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This project commemorates the death of an Indigenous child who resided at the former Babies Cottage located in the hospice care building in Burrard View Park. Students from neighbourhood schools and programs participate in Indigenous teaching about carving with the carver. EIS also host programs for the broader community.

Standard Park Board safety and insurance requirements apply for this carving project, and has been overseen by Park Board staff.

The VPB installed a temporary shipping container on site for safe storage of tools and the carving between events (**figures 7 and 8**). The carving began in October 2025 and is scheduled to be completed before June 21, 2026 for Indigenous People's Day. This project is located outside of the VUFFF community garden licence agreement area and beyond the boundaries of the archaeological review area. The infrastructure is VPB owned and temporarily located at Burrard View Park from October 2025-June 2026.

The VPB is currently supporting similar carving projects with Squamish and Musqueam carvers at Strathcona Park and John Hendry Park by providing temporary shipping containers at each site. The shipping containers will be moved to other park locations for other temporary art, reconciliation and culture projects as needed. The shipping containers require temporary concrete footings or a gravel pad that will be removed when the shipping container is moved and restored to its original turf condition. The completion of the work and removal of the container is scheduled for June 2026.



Figure 7: Shipping container side view



Figure 8: Shipping container front view



Playground Upgrade The Burrard View Park playground renewal project has been fully designed and is scheduled to be tendered for construction in early Q1 2026. On-site information signs will be installed to inform the public about the renewal, and residents may contact the Park Board if they have questions or would like additional information. Posting information signs on site is the standard method used by staff to notify residents about playground renewal projects. Park Board staff anticipate that the renewed playground will be completed and open to the public by Q4 2026.

NEXT STEPS

This memo will be provided to the community members who voiced their concerns. It compiles and reiterates information conveyed to them in response to their direct questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rena Soutar".

Rena Soutar (*she/they*)

Manager, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications