



June 21, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton  
Acting General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **COVID-19 Outdoor Aquatics Opening Plan – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you of the plan for opening Park Board outdoor aquatic services, which typically open in May but the season was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised opening plan includes ten (10) spray parks, four (4) outdoor pools, and lifeguards at nine (9) swimming beaches. Staff will be notifying the unions tomorrow morning, before issuing a public announcement, and so I ask that you not share this information until after that time.

Beginning June 27, staff will begin opening the spray parks located in Chaldecott, Garden, Grandview, Harbour Green, Hastings Community, MacLean, Oak, Pandora, Prince Edward and Stanley parks. As these popular summer amenities are not supervised by staff, users will be responsible for incorporating the recommended safe distancing measures.

Beginning July 13, the outdoor pools at Kitsilano, New Brighton, and Second Beach will be opened for the summer season, and lifeguards will begin patrolling the designated swimming beaches at English Bay, Jericho, Kitsilano, Locarno, Spanish Banks East & West, Sunset, Third, and Trout Lake. Maple Grove pool will also be opened, but this may be slightly delayed while staff work to configure the online booking system.

New public safety protocols have been developed for outdoor pool usage in alignment with Lifesaving Society Canada's recently released guidelines, and enhanced lifeguard protocols have been developed in conjunction with WorkSafe BC.

Outdoor pools will reopen for a combination of designated lap swimming and public swimming sessions, with admission managed through an online reservation system or by in-person drop-ins, both using contactless electronic payment. Flexipasses and cash will not be accepted at this time. Leisure Access Program users will be provided with access to the reservation system.

New guidelines at outdoor pools will include:

- reduced maximum capacities to align with decreased bathing load protocols;
- physical distancing measures implemented at access points & throughout facilities;
- change rooms remaining closed - patrons to arrive "swim ready" (washrooms will be open);
- swim times booked in blocks: 90 minutes for casual swimming; 45 minutes for laps (with wider lanes);
- 30 minute buffer between swim periods to sanitize facilities and prepare for the next group;
- snorkels and kickboards will not be permitted; and
- no goggle or towel rentals.



New guidelines at beaches include:

- mandatory physical distancing measures for everyone (lifeguards and community);
- change rooms remaining closed (washrooms will be open);
- swimming zones marked by new red and yellow flags (instead of buoys);
- swim rafts will not be deployed due to the many obstacles for maintaining community safety and for lifeguards to manage;
- water wheelchairs remaining available on a first come, first served basis (can reserve [online](#));
- non-slip beach mats remaining available at Kitsilano and English Bay to allow people with walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters enjoy the beach experience.

Lifeguards will be on duty from 11:30am to 8:30pm daily at beaches (Jul 13 - Sep 7), with hours varying at the outdoor pools to align with specific site programming needs.

- lifeguards must wear personal protection equipment when on duty;
- first aid rooms will be limited to the patient and lifeguard during treatment (a parent/guardian will be allowed to accompany a child).

Park Board staff continue to review the feasibility of reopening other facilities and services and will keep Commissioners informed as new plans are developed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Wilton".

Shauna Wilton  
Acting General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Outdoor Aquatics Supervisor  
PB Communications  
City Manager