
From: Park Board GM's Office
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 5:46 PM
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications; Shearer, Doug; Townsend, Chad (chad.townsend@vancouver.ca)
Subject: Lost Lagoon Carp - Board Update

Dear Commissioners,

Earlier this week staff learned a large number of carp had died in Lost Lagoon. While operational crews worked to remove the fish, our environmental staff have been investigating the specific cause(s) in partnership with the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

There may be a number of reasons for why this happened, possibly triggered by the heavy rain storm last week, but staff are awaiting the test results to know conclusively. Beyond this incident, staff have been aware of the ecological issues and challenges at Lost Lagoon for some time, and over the last few years have been exploring various feasible solutions to restore the area.

Lost Lagoon is an artificially isolated body of water created in the early 1900's when the causeway was built. Formerly a tidal ecosystem, the berm built for Highway 99 turned the lagoon into a pond for recreational and aesthetic purposes. Because it is isolated, infilling, and now only approximately one metre deep (with much of the shoreline non-naturalized), it is considered an ecologically poor and low-functioning habitat. In order to restore the area to the point where ecology is its primary function, significant infrastructure, investment, and time is needed. The Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan currently being developed in partnership with Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations will include considerations for Lost Lagoon. Staff anticipate that the first part of this plan will be presented to the Board in early 2022.

In the meantime, with respect to the loss of carp, staff will keep the Board updated as new information becomes available.

Regards,

Donnie



Donnie Rosa | General Manager
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver | 604.257.8448
pronouns: she/they

I live and work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) peoples.