



July 17, 2017

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Nick Page  
Biologist, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **New Brighton Salt Marsh - Board Update**

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Dear Commissioners,

I am pleased to let you know that the New Brighton Park salt marsh project is now substantially complete. Planting, fencing, installation of picnic tables and benches, and seeding were all completed last week and there are no only minor items left to address. The attached drone photos were taken by the Port and show the transformation that has taken place on the eastern side of New Brighton Park over the past 10 months.

It is exciting that we have already witnessed juvenile chum and chinook salmon using the wetland as they migrated through Burrard Inlet in late spring. We expect to see more birds and fish as algae and invertebrates rapidly colonize the new habitat.

Some specific updates to keep you informed about the project:

1. Temporary construction fencing has been kept along the site perimeter to protect plants and seeded areas during the establishment phase. Public access has been provided along the beachside trail that leads to the northern viewing deck. This allows the public to be able to see the new wetland and also use the new benches on the viewing deck.
2. The planted areas (excluding the seeded turf) are watered using a temporary irrigation system as part of the Port's maintenance contract. Continual watering is essential to helping the plants get established and grow over the summer.
3. You will note the drone photo shows orange snow fencing within the wetland area. This is to deter Canada geese from browsing the new marsh plants. Geese had damaged one of the main salt marsh species (Salicornia / pickleweed) the first week following planting.
4. Park Board and Port staff are working with the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations to develop interpretive information that is anticipated to highlight the cultural and ecological importance of the New Brighton area and Burrard Inlet in general to local First Nations. This component is anticipated to be installed this fall.
5. We will be updating the public on the project's progress using the Park Board and Port websites, and are also working with the Port to update others that have been part of project's public engagement process, including the Park Board's Stakeholder Advisory Group.



6. The new off-leash areas are working well with increasing use of the large, fenced area on the western side of the park. Challenges remain with managing off-leash dogs in New Brighton Park and we will be installing new signs to reduce conflicts. We will also be starting a year of monitoring with the aim of adjusting the off-leash areas (specifically the water and beach access) if needed. We are working to add additional seating or picnic tables in the fenced off-leash for park visitors with dogs.
7. The project's event opening is tentatively scheduled for early fall and we will provide a further update once that date is confirmed. Early fall (late September, tbc) was chosen because it will allow us to remove the construction fencing and provide full public access to that part of the park. Vegetation will also be better established by that time. The opening will be organized jointly by the Park Board and the Port with proposed attendance from senior staff and Board members from both organizations. Further planning is underway on this now.

Please contact me if you have any questions or want to have a tour of the project this summer.

Regards,

*Nick Page.*

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/np/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Management Team  
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## Appendix A - Drone Photographs

