



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

December 18, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Steve Jackson – General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Seawall – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to update you on the impacts and mitigation efforts related to the wind and rainstorm that occurred over the period between December 17 and 18.

Park Board staff regularly monitor winter storm forecasts and take actions depending on the severity of forecasted events. Staff have developed these protocols with the assistance of professional engineering consultants to ensure the safety of seawall and park users.

This recent forecasted event called for rainfall in excess of 50mm over a 24-hour period, triggering a safety closure of the gates at the seawall section between Prospect Point and Third Beach to mitigate slope failure risks. Additionally, the forecasted tide was an extreme height of 5.4M, combined with forecasted wind wave direction towards at the western side of Stanley Park and the western beaches, which tends to result in the most impacts to Vancouver's coastal park infrastructure.

This combination of wind and tide caused localized erosive wave damage to the seawall between Siwash Rock and Third Beaches, and Park Board Engineering and Operations Staff are assessing the seawall damage and developing solutions for repairs to be implemented as soon as possible. The gates between Prospect Point and Third Beach will remain closed until Friday at the earliest, while Staff complete clean up of storm debris. Following this work, staff will determine whether a temporary bypass at the damaged location can be safely provided, allowing for pedestrian and cyclist circulation to be restored.

Repair works will be undertaken with the aim of mitigating damage from future storms given that extreme events are occurring with increased frequency, intensity and duration, however these ongoing maintenance and repairs will at best limit deterioration due to typical environmental conditions and cannot eliminate localized failures due to storm events. As identified in the Park Board Capital Plan, Staff have initiated a Park Board specific Coastal Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment to inform future priority work and requisite funding implications.



Staff will provide updates to the public via our social media channels regarding closure duration and repair progress, along with timelines for re-opening.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Jackson (*he/him*)
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications
Ian Stewart, Associate Director, Park Development
Darren Peterson, Associate Director, Park Operations
Andrew Seeton, Civil Engineer II, Park Development Operating & Capital