



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

June 12, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **John Hendry Park Master Plan Projects - Water Quality Study and Capital projects – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

This memo provides background and update on a two-year water quality study to be conducted at Trout Lake in John Hendry Park that was initiated in November 2025 in alignment with the John Hendry Park Master Plan and an update on capital project delivery in the park.

BACKGROUND

Trout Lake was once a natural peat bog lake fed by streams and home to trout, salmon and beaver. From the 1860s until the Capilano water system was built in the 1880s, the lake provided water, via a flume channel, for the boilers at Hastings Mill on Burrard Inlet. The Lake and surrounding land were donated to the Park Board in the 1920s. The former flume and streams have been put in pipes and the only natural lake water inputs are rain and groundwater.

In recent years, VBPR has seasonally added approximately 8 million litres of potable water into the Lake annually to maintain a consistent water level aesthetic through the dry summer months and in attempt to provide a swimmable south end. However, this approach is not aligned with current City and Metro Vancouver water conservation regulations, adds chlorine to the lake which can be harmful to aquatic wildlife, and does not guarantee the Lake will be considered safe to swim by Coastal Health guidelines.

2025-2026 TROUT LAKE WATER QUALITY STUDY

A professional consultant has been hired to conduct a two-year water quality study at Trout Lake, running from 2025 to 2027 as part of the John Hendry Park Renewal Plan. The study will assess current conditions and explore ways to improve water quality, support biodiversity, and enhance recreational use —as outlined in the [John Hendry \(Trout Lake\) Park Renewal Plan](#).

Sampling activities will include small boat access and water collection, with no expected impact on regular park programming. Informational signage has now been installed to notify the public of upcoming project activities. The first sampling event of the 2025 wet season happened on November 7, 2025.



To establish a reliable baseline for water quality and quantity, the potable water input to the lake was switched off on October 16, 2025, and will remain off for the duration of the study. As a result, summer water levels are expected to lower, which may be a concern for some residents. A communication plan has been developed to inform the public of this change prior to Summer 2026. The data generated by this study will provide insight into the risks associated with primary contact and support discussions with the Province and Vancouver Coastal Health to explore a tiered guideline for swimming—without requiring further costly engineering modifications to the lake or impacting its ecological conditions. Study findings will be shared with the Board through a report and/or presentation upon completion.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Short term actions from John Hendry Park Renewal Plan include upgrades to the sport fields and dog off leash and north beach improvements. The rugby field was renewed and opened to the public earlier this spring. The renewal of the Little League diamonds was complete in April well in advance of the League's hosting of Provincial Championships in July. The concept design for the dog off leash area, adjacent trails, and north beach improvements is near completion. Phased construction is anticipated to begin in late 2026.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack".

Tiina Mack (she/her)

Director, Park Planning and Development – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team

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