



PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION

The first Pacific National Exhibition Fair took place in 1910. For about two decades, the fair was the second largest in North America after the New York City Fair.

Since that time, the site has played host to many famous events including the Miracle Mile at Empire Stadium. In this now-historic race, which took place in 1954, John Landy of Australia and Roger Bannister of England both broke the four-minute mile barrier.

Today the PNE operates three business streams: the 17-day annual summer fair, Playland Amusement Park and year-round facilities rentals. About one million people visit the fair annually, and about 286,000 enjoy the rides at Playland each year. Numerous community groups and film production companies rent the facilities at the park, as do the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants.

The PNE contributes about \$115 million to the gross domestic product of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and creates approximately 4,000 direct jobs at the height of operation in the summer. The PNE is also a significant source of temporary employment for youth. In the summer, especially during the fair, about 2,600 jobs are created for young people.

In 1997, Vancouver city council and the park board approved the Hastings Park Restoration Plan, which called for the gradual restoration of the area to abundant green spaces and trees. The PNE was expected to relocate to another location as soon as possible.

Following an intensive review by the provincial government's core services task force in 2001, the PNE was directed to begin discussions with the City of Vancouver for the transfer of its operations to the city, and to dispose of the land in Surrey acquired for relocation purposes.

Significant progress has been made toward the implementation of the Hastings Park Restoration Plan with the creation of the Sanctuary, the Italian Gardens and the Empire Fields.

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