

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 4/9/2025 5:27:24 PM

Subject: RE: Upcoming Information bulletin: New Expo Deck path open late May (April 9, 2024)

Mayor and Council,

Due to some shifting media priorities today, this bulletin was rescheduled for Friday morning, April 11.

Lon LaClaire, will still offer a media availability to coincide with this update.

Best,

Paul

From: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2025 12:52 PM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group

Subject: Upcoming Information bulletin: New Expo Deck path open late May (April 9, 2024)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin advising the public that construction on a new Expo Deck path to connect the Seawall and Seaside Greenway Path between Creekside and Science World will begin next week. More details and background can be found in the Council memo titled "Expo Deck Closure - Improved Detour" that was shared on Monday, April 7 - key messaging and facts are also below.

The GM of Engineering will be offering media interviews on Wednesday afternoon. Given this, please feel free to refer media requests on this matter to media@vancouver.ca. Prior to the release, staff will be informing under embargo key stakeholders of these forthcoming changes, including Dominic Lai of Dragon Boat BC.

Please keep this info bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account. Maria will reply to this email with the relevant vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Key messages:

- Construction on a new compacted gravel path between Creekside Community Centre and Science World, similar to the seawall path at Vanier Park, will begin next week and is anticipated to open in late May.
 - A compacted gravel path was chosen because the equipment needed to lay asphalt exceeds safe weight restrictions for the area. Compacted gravel is the best choice of material to safely and effectively construct a new route closer to the water.
- Two new, wide, comfortable, and separated side-by-side paths will connect pedestrians and cyclists from the Seawall/Seaside Greenway at Ontario St to the Seawall and Seaside Greenway paths in front of Science World.
- The existing detours along Switchmen and Quebec will remain in place until the new paths are open.
- Access to Science World will remain throughout construction.
- Staff continue long-term planning for the future of the Expo Deck – a smaller section of closed south deck is not expected to re-open to the public.

Key facts:

Myth: *This is a permanent detour, and the deck will be closed until 2032.*

Fact: The current detour is a temporary emergency detour put in place out of an abundance of caution while the City continues to assess the condition of the aging Expo Deck structure that supports this segment of the seawall pathway. A new wider path closer to the water with side-by-side paths for pedestrians and cyclists will be constructed this spring and is anticipated to open in late May. A small section of closed south deck is not expected to re-open to the public.

Myth: *Gravel is not a good option for the path – why not build an asphalt path?*

Fact: The equipment needed to lay asphalt exceeds safe weight restrictions for the area. Compacted gravel is the best choice of material to safely and effectively construct a new route closer to the water. The path will be

similar to the existing seawall path at Vanier Park. The new paths will allow people to walk, bike, and roll around Science World.

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****Media Availability: Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering, will be available for interviews between 10 am and 11 am today, Friday, April 4. Please email interview requests to media@vancouver.ca.*** \u8239

**City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
April 4, 2025**

New Expo Deck path to open late May

Vancouver Seawall and Seaside Greenway path users will soon be closer to the water when walking or cycling by Science World. Construction on a new compacted gravel path between Creekside Community Centre and Science World will begin next week. The new wider, separated path is anticipated to open in late May, improving access around False Creek this summer.

While construction of the new gravel path is underway, Seawall and Seaside Greenway path users will continue using the temporary detour routes along Ontario, Switchmen and Quebec streets.

Expo Deck closure

In February, out of an abundance of caution, the City [closed the Expo Deck](#) south of Science World including the nearby seawall path. Recent findings from regular ongoing inspections of the aging deck confirmed that portions of the structure are reaching end of life and may no longer be safe for public access.

Since the closure, a temporary detour has been in place while the City and consultants further assessed the condition of the structure and identified an improved path to reconnect pedestrians and cyclists to the Seaside Greenway.

Once constructed, the new path will remain in place while the City continues long-term planning for the future of the Expo Deck. A smaller section of the south deck is expected to remain closed to the public indefinitely.

New gravel path

A compacted gravel path, similar to the seawall path at Vanier Park, was the best choice of material to quickly and safely construct a new route around the closed section of the Expo Deck.

Two new, wide, comfortable and separated side-by-side paths will be built for pedestrians and cyclists. The new route will seamlessly connect users from the Seawall/Seaside Greenway at Ontario St and reconnect with the Seawall and Seaside Greenway paths in front of Science World.

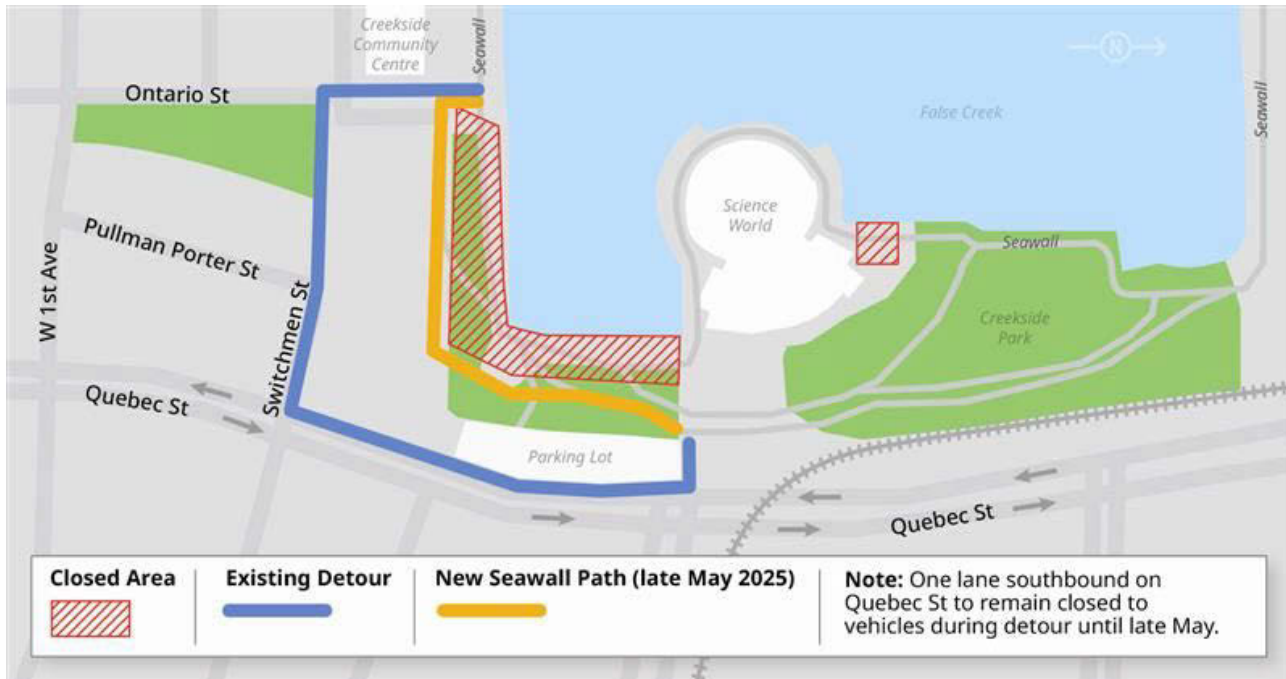
What to expect during construction

The City has been working closely with structural engineers to determine a plan to safely construct a new path in the area. Pre-construction activities are currently underway.

During construction, the grass area on the deck will be excavated and gravel will be placed and compacted to form the new path. Access to Science World remains and will be retained throughout construction.

The City thanks the public for their ongoing patience and co-operation during the emergency closure and detour.

***Note to Editors:** Please see attached map for location of deck closures and detour paths.



Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

media@vancouver.ca