

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 6/9/2026 1:30:16 PM

Subject: Council prep package & news release - Summer Lights in English Bay

Dear Mayor & Council,

The City will be announcing Summer Lights in English Bay, a free, one-night public fireworks celebration taking place Friday, July 31, 2026 , at English Bay Beach Park.

In preparation for the announcement, staff have prepared key messages and Q&As that may be helpful in media interviews or conversations with residents, businesses and community partners.

The City is planning to issue the news release at 2:30 pm today. It is included below for your reference.

Angela will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Issue in brief

Today (June 9), the City is announcing Summer Lights in English Bay, a free, one-night fireworks celebration taking place Friday, July 31, 2026, at English Bay Beach Park.

The event is open to all residents and visitors, with no tickets or registration required. Summer Lights in English Bay is presented by the City of Vancouver and produced by BrandLive, with support from the Vancouver Park Board.

The event was developed following Council direction after the announcement that the Celebration of Light would not proceed in 2026. Summer Lights in English Bay is a new event created to offer residents and visitors a free public fireworks celebration in 2026.

Further details, including fireworks timing, viewing areas, road closures, transit recommendations, accessibility information and public safety reminders, will be shared in the coming weeks.

Communications approach in brief

The communications approach is to position Summer Lights in English Bay as a free, welcoming public celebration in one of Vancouver's most iconic waterfront settings.

Public messaging should describe Summer Lights in English Bay as a new, one-night event created for 2026. It should not be positioned as a replacement for the Celebration of Light.

The announcement will focus on what the public can expect: a free fireworks celebration at English Bay, open public viewing areas, food trucks on site, support for nearby local businesses, and further event details to come.

Staff have also prepared responses to anticipated questions about event planning, cost, public safety, transportation, accessibility and the relationship to the Celebration of Light.

Staff are aware that July 31 coincides with Vancouver Pride weekend. The City has been proactively engaging the Vancouver Pride Society throughout the planning process to coordinate operational plans, identify shared infrastructure opportunities, and ensure both events can be delivered safely and successfully.

Key messages

- Summer Lights in English Bay is a free, one-night fireworks celebration taking place Friday, July 31, 2026, at English Bay Beach Park.
- The event is open to all residents and visitors, with no tickets or registration required.
- Summer Lights in English Bay is a new event created to offer residents and visitors a free public fireworks celebration in 2026.
- The event was developed following Council direction after the announcement that the Celebration of Light would not proceed in 2026.
- The City is presenting the event, with BrandLive producing it and support from the Vancouver Park Board.
- More details, including fireworks timing, viewing areas, road closures, transit recommendations, accessibility information and public safety reminders, will be shared in the coming weeks.
- July 31 coincides with Vancouver Pride weekend. The City has been working proactively with the Vancouver Pride Society to coordinate operational plans, identify shared infrastructure opportunities, and ensure both events are delivered safely and successfully.

Questions & Answers

Q1. What is Summer Lights in English Bay?

Summer Lights in English Bay is a free, one-night public fireworks celebration taking place Friday, July 31, 2026, at English Bay Beach Park. The event is open to residents and visitors, with no tickets or registration required.

Q2. Is this replacing the Celebration of Light?

No. Summer Lights in English Bay is a new event created to offer residents and visitors a free public fireworks celebration in 2026. The event was developed following Council direction after the announcement that the Celebration of Light would not proceed in 2026.

Q3. Why is the City holding this event?

Following the announcement that the Celebration of Light would not proceed in 2026, Council directed staff to plan and deliver a one-night public fireworks event. Summer Lights in English Bay was created to provide a free public fireworks celebration for residents and visitors in 2026.

Q4. How much is this costing?

Council approved a budget of up to \$2 million to support delivery of the event. The budget supports planning and delivery of a large public event, including event production, operations, coordination with agency partners and related logistics.

Q5. Who is producing the event?

BrandLive is producing Summer Lights in English Bay in coordination with the City, Vancouver Park Board and agency partners. BrandLive is a Vancouver-based event production company with experience delivering large-scale public events.

Q6. What public safety and transportation planning is underway?

Planning is underway with the City, Vancouver Park Board, BrandLive and agency partners to support a safe and well-coordinated event. Further details, including road closures, transit recommendations, viewing areas, accessibility information and public safety reminders, will be shared in the coming weeks.

Q7. How can people get updates?

Residents and visitors can visit vancouver.ca and follow @SummerLightsYVR on social media for updates. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Q8. July 31 is Vancouver Pride weekend. How is the City coordinating with Vancouver Pride?

The City recognizes that Summer Lights in English Bay takes place on Vancouver Pride weekend and has been proactively working with the Vancouver Pride Society since the early stages of planning. Staff and the production team have engaged directly with the Vancouver Pride Society to coordinate operational plans, explore shared use of temporary infrastructure such as fencing, portable washrooms and staging, and identify cost efficiencies that benefit both events. The goal is to ensure both celebrations can take place safely and successfully, and that the August long weekend showcases Vancouver as a vibrant and welcoming city for residents and visitors alike.

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please reach out to Angela MacKenzie at angela.mackenzie@vancouver.ca.

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City of Vancouver

News Release

June 8, 2026

City of Vancouver announces Summer Lights in English Bay

Free waterfront fireworks celebration planned for July 31

Vancouver's waterfront will light up this summer with Summer Lights in English Bay, a free, one-night fireworks celebration taking place Friday, July 31, 2026, at English Bay Beach Park. The event is open to all residents and visitors, with no tickets or registration required.

Summer Lights in English Bay will bring people together for an evening of fireworks over one of Vancouver's most iconic public gathering places. The celebration is presented by the City of Vancouver and produced by BrandLive, with support from the Vancouver Park Board.

"Summer Lights in English Bay is about bringing people together for a spectacular evening in one of Vancouver's most iconic settings," said Mayor Ken Sim. "This is a free, welcoming celebration for residents, families and visitors to enjoy during what will be an extraordinary summer for our city."

Taking place on the Friday of the BC Day long weekend, Summer Lights in English Bay kicks off Vancouver Pride Week's closing weekend, before an exciting stretch of [major events ahead](#) for the city.

The celebration will offer open public viewing areas at English Bay, with food trucks on site and opportunities for visitors to support nearby restaurants, cafés and local businesses in the West End before and after the fireworks.

Summer Lights in English Bay was developed following Council direction after the announcement that the Celebration of Light would not proceed in 2026. The new event was created to offer residents and visitors a free public fireworks celebration in 2026.

BrandLive, a Vancouver-based event production company with extensive experience delivering major public events, is producing the event in coordination with the City, Vancouver Park Board and agency partners.

Public safety continues to be our top priority. The City and BrandLive are working closely with partners, including the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services to deliver a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Further details, including fireworks timing, viewing areas, road closures, transit recommendations, accessibility information and public safety reminders, will be shared in the coming weeks. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit vancouver.ca and follow @SummerLightsYVR on social media for updates.

Event details

Event: Summer Lights in English Bay

Date: Friday, July 31, 2026

Location: English Bay Beach Park

Admission: Free; no tickets or registration required

Fireworks: Fireworks display over English Bay

On site: Food trucks

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Media contact:

City of Vancouver

media@vancouver.ca