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**From:** Park Board GM's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 6:44 PM  
**To:** PB Commissioners  
**Cc:** PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL  
**Subject:** 2021 Service Plan Enquiry - Golf Improvements & Reserve

Dear Commissioners,

During the 2021 Service Plan Briefing held on July 28, there were questions raised regarding the Golf Improvements line item in the Capital Plan and its relationship with the Golf Reserve. Following is some additional information.

### **Background**

Golf is a profit generating business for the Park Board which helps provide financial support for other core functions of the Park Board. As outlined in the May 28, 2001 Park Board report entitled [Golf Course Financial Sustainability](#), the Golf Reserve was set up in 2001 for “ongoing capital improvements to meet the needs of the golfer and to ensure the golf course infrastructure is not deteriorating”. The golf reserve was agreed to be funded annually through an increased user fees starting in 2001 (gradually increasing through to 2008) and as such is in the base price of the current green fees; this gradual fee increase was the unanimously supported option per the focus group studies.

### **Legalities and Limitations**

The Golf Reserve can only be used to fund capital and maintenance improvements at the golf courses. Authority to spend out of the reserve follows the City’s Capital/Operating budget policy and needs to be approved through the annual budget process.

### **Golf Reserve and Projects**

The current balance in the Golf Reserve will be \$900K after the current capital projects are completed. A current example of what the golf reserve has been used for is the Langara Drainage project. This project got under way during the temporary golf closures caused by the COVID pandemic. Staff were able to remediate 3.5 holes which included slit drainage that flows the water into a retention pond. The water from the retention pond is then used to irrigate the golf course which avoids water going into the storm sewers.

Other notable projects underway:

- Climate change response - Re-divert the remaining drainage outflows from storm water to irrigation ponds to make Langara golf course 100% closed system. Over 3 hectares of water run-off captured as a result of the work. All water collected from drainage systems would be re-directed into irrigation ponds, pumped up to the irrigation pond for filtering and re-used as irrigation water - design in 2021/work in 2021/2022).
- Wellness, Access & Equity - Construct new forward tees on all three golf courses to make golf courses easier, less time consuming and more attractive to new players and children. USGA directive that we are embracing. Design complete. Work to commence Fall 2020/Complete by Spring 2021.
- Two(2) outdoor washrooms in 2018. One at Fraserview and one at McCleery; both are self-composting and waterless washrooms with full accessibility.

### **Implications from Capital Plan Changes and Impact on Capital Budgets**

The current capital golf projects are fully funded from the golf reserve and as such any reductions to these projects would reduce the burden to the golf reserve, however due to the funding restrictions put in place as part of the creation of the reserve would not assist in the current DCL funding shortfall (note, no DCL funds are

currently earmarked for any golf course related capital projects). Any planned projects/expenditures from this reserve are approved through the annual budget process.

Thanks,  
Steve,

Steve Jackson  
Acting Deputy General Manager  
Vancouver Park Board