



November 27, 2018

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Beaver Lake Enhancement Plan Implementation Update**

Dear Commissioners,

This memo provides an update on the progress of the Enhancement Plan for Beaver Lake. The project team are currently working to implement the recommendations outlined in the Enhancement Plan. The public has been updated on the progress of the project via the project [webpage](#) and signage posted on site.

Background

On October 27, 2014, Park Board approved the consultant report *Ecological and Culturally Sensitive Enhancement Plan for Beaver Lake*, which provided a publically supported vision for the restoration of the lake. Since adoption of the plan, there has been ongoing work on the project. The project team has undertaken numerous studies to address issues such as water supply, dredging methods, disposal of dredgeate, managing beaver activity, and working around bird and fish breeding windows.

Current Project Description

The Board approved concept plan is shown in Appendix A and illustrates the following key features that will be implemented as part of Phase 1 and are funded in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan:

- An enhanced outlet structure and spillway to mitigate trail and other damage from flooding;
- A boardwalk and viewing platform into the bog to expand educational and interpretive programming and viewing opportunities;
- Two additional viewing platforms along the perimeter trail for wildlife viewing and interpretive opportunities;
- An expanded bog for plant diversity and educational opportunities;
- Vernal ponds around the perimeter trail which provide amphibian habitat and modulate runoff into the lake.

Future Beaver Lake Projects

Phase 2 implementation involves dredging the lake to remove the organic build-up and invasive species contributing to rapid infilling of the lake, primarily the invasive fragrant water-lily. This step requires the lake to be drained and carries a significant capital cost and will not be undertaken in the 2019-22 Capital Plan, but will be considered in future Capital Plans.

Also in the future, a fish ladder from Beaver Creek to allow fish passage into Beaver Lake (including improvements at the mouth of Beaver Creek) can be undertaken in conjunction with seawall reconstruction.



First Nations Consultation

Beaver Lake is within the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and is a significant part of their history. The three Nations were consulted in the development of the Enhancement Plan and the approved plan reflects their concerns and respects their strong connection to the lake and the surrounding lands and waters. An update will be provided to the Nations prior to construction.

Partnerships

Park Board staff is partnering with the Stanley Park Ecological Society (SPES) on vegetation management and invasive species removal. All vegetation related work in Phase 1 will be done prior to the bird nesting season (annually from March 15 – August 15).

Next Steps and Schedule

The project team is currently undertaking the detailed design for Phase 1 design features. It is anticipated that construction will take place in the summer of 2019 when the conditions are the driest.

Staff will continue to update the Board at key project milestones.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

AG/AD/TM/DH

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications

Appendix A – Preliminary Concept

