



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

September 25, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Director, Business Services
SUBJECT : **Bloedel Conservatory Temporary Closure – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the planned closure of Bloedel Conservatory (“Bloedel”) for improvements to the facility. The Conservatory will be temporarily closed to the public from October 28, 2024, until January 3, 2025, for necessary repairs to its pathways.

The Conservatory paths are currently constructed with paving stones and asphalt that are past their lifespan, causing safety hazards to visitors and staff. The paths require replacement, and the Parks Construction Department will be doing a full reconstruction with large basalt flagstones, creating a permanent bonded surface with a longer service life. Most paths and areas within the site are small and narrow, creating many constraints and safety concerns in undergoing this construction while staying open to the public.

This reconstructive work will be a major improvement to the facility and will increase the safety and accessibility for visitors and staff at Bloedel. There will be little to no impact on the wildlife during construction and staff will continue to maintain their welfare throughout the closure. November and December are the quietest months of the year at Bloedel, which was taken into consideration in determining closure dates.

Bloedel’s joint operating partner, the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (“VBGA”), has been consulted on the closure and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is making every effort to accommodate services under VBGA’s purview that may be affected.

All regular full-time staff will continue to work their shifts as scheduled, and any Auxiliary staff whose shifts are impacted have been informed. CUPE1004 and CUPE15 Unions have also been notified.

We look forward to re-opening the Conservatory in January 2025.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Brodie'.

John Brodie, PMP
Director, Business Services – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: Ema Tanaka, Garden Director, Bloedel Conservatory and VanDusen Botanical Garden